

Fruits Basket™

TOKYOPOP

The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



10

Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

Volume 10



Natsuki Takaya

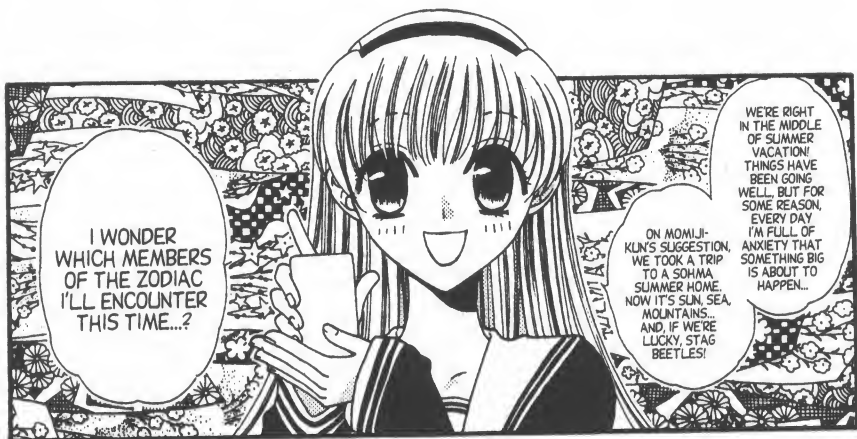
Fruits Basket™

Table of Contents

Chapter 54	10
Chapter 55	43
Chapter 56	73
Chapter 57	104
Chapter 58	137
Chapter 59	167
Year of the Tiger	198
Fans Basket	199

STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



Fruits Basket™

Table of Contents

Chapter 54	10
Chapter 55	43
Chapter 56	73
Chapter 57	104
Chapter 58	137
Chapter 59	167
Year of the Tiger	198
Fans Basket	199

STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!





Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

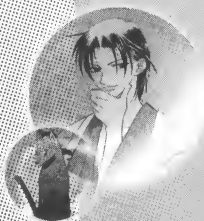
Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



Fruits Basket Characters

Mabudachi Trio



Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.

Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends

Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks.
Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black."
Then you'd better watch out.



Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

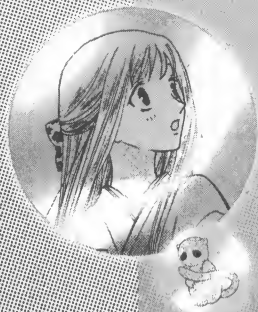
Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.



Fruits Basket Characters

Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.



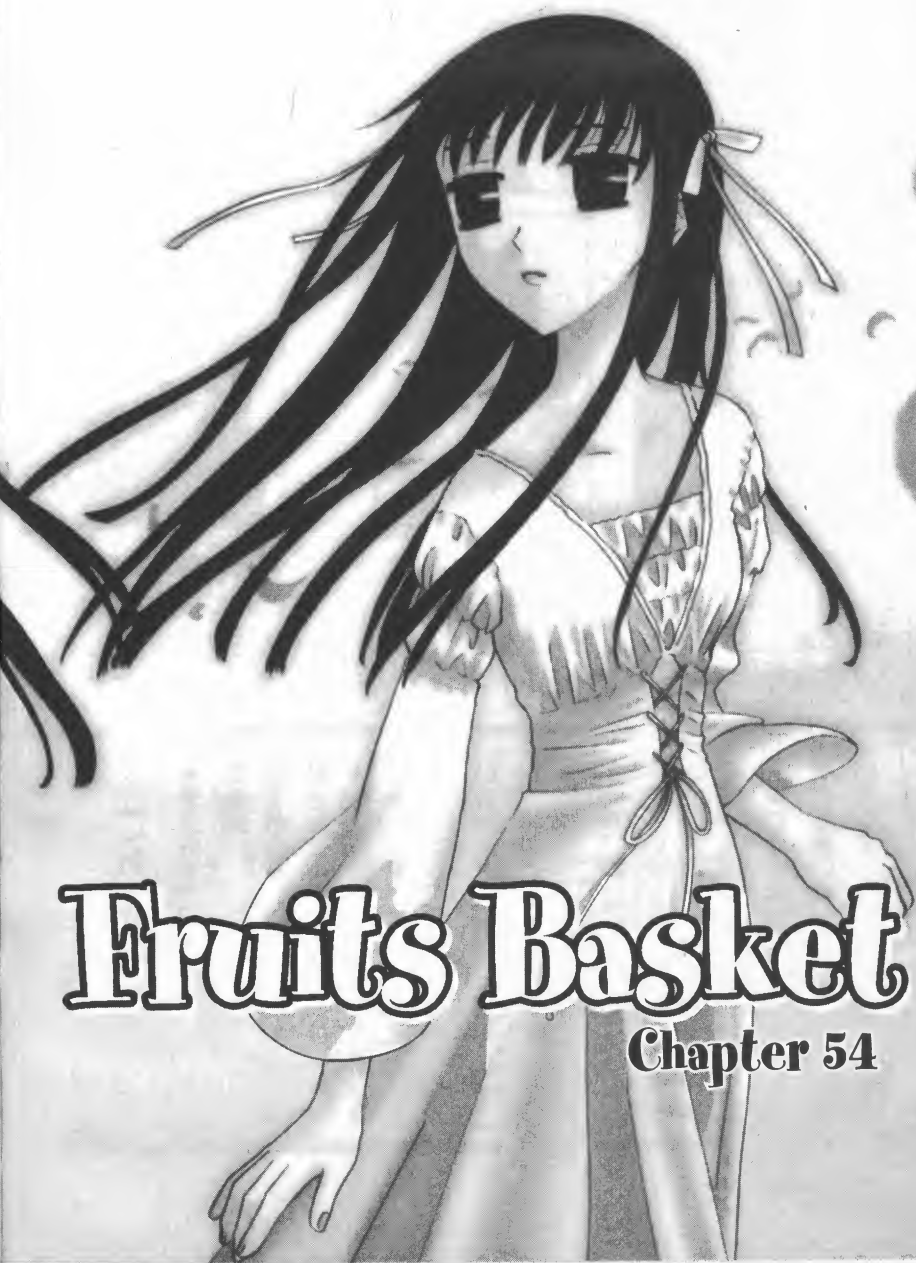
Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this “she” is really a hell! Crossdressing calms his nerves.

Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.





Fruits Basket

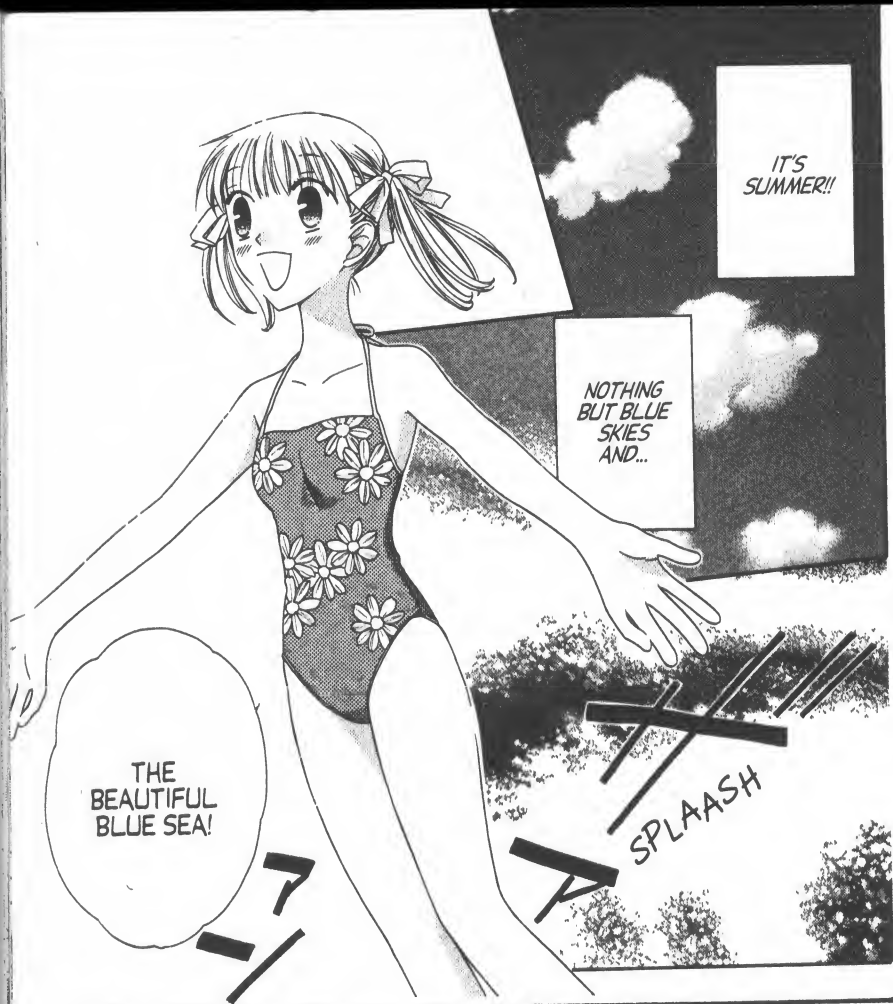
Chapter 54



Filler
Sketch



I couldn't decide until the very last minute whether to give her a bikini or a one-piece... (Either would be fine...)



BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 1

Recently, I received some fan letters written on homemade rabbit stationery--it was so precious, I was embarrassed! (laugh)
When I get hand-knit scarves and hats, I get embarrassed, too. It's like, "Ah, this feels like Toki-Memo*...!" (Really?)

Thank you. I treasure them.

*Tokimeki Memorial: A popular series of dating sim games.



I CAME ON
A SUMMER
VACATION WITH
EVERYONE!

COLD,
ISN'T IT?!



IF IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE, THIS PLACE IS EVEN MORE WONDERFUL THAN THE LAST SUMMER HOME.

Uwaaahh!

AND THE ROOMS INSIDE ARE ENORMOUS AND OH SO BEAUTIFUL!

Uwaaahh!

My, my, what a charming girl. You must be tired. Please, make yourself comfortable.

Aahh... ah...

AND THIS HOUSE EVEN HAS MAIDS!

TOHRU, LOOK!

YOU CAN SEE THE HOUSE FROM HERE!

AH... YOU'RE RIGHT!

WE ARRIVED LAST NIGHT.

IT WAS QUITE LATE.



I THOUGHT
FOR SURE HE
WOULD COME...

HE SAID HE'LL
JOIN US ONCE
HE'S GOTTEN
ENOUGH WORK
OUT OF THE
WAY.

BUT... WHY
WERE YOU
SO SURE?

Don't get into
trouble while I'm
not there!

AT LEAST WE
GET TO SEE
HONDA-SAN...

...IN ALL HER
SWIMSUIT-
CLAD GLORY.

SO, SENSEI*
DIDN'T MAKE
IT, AFTER
ALL.

I'M SO
FULL OF
GRATITUDE!

ONCE
AGAIN, IT'S
MORE THAN
I DESERVE.

DON'T TALK ABOUT
HER LIKE THAT!!

*sensei = Shigure

Fruits Basket 10
Part 1:

Hajimemashite
and konnichiwa!
Takaya, here!
Furuba has made
it to Volume 10 at
last! Uwaaaaahh!
Ten volumes...
Clap clap!
Volume 10
features Kisa.
Recently, she
has become
remarkably
cheerful. It's
not that her
situation has
really changed...
yet. But as
long as there
are people who
understand her,
she won't give
up on walking
forward.

Well now, volume
ten is "Summer
Vacation in a
Summer Home."
Please enjoy.

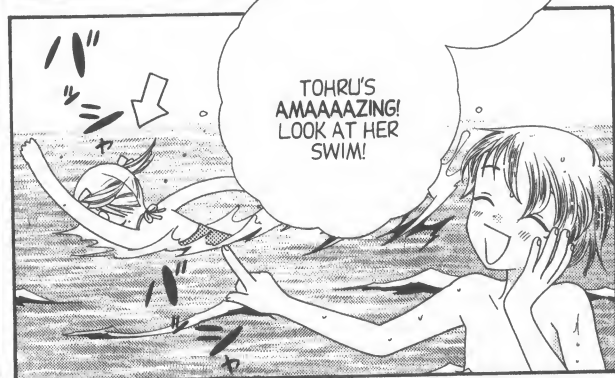
NOOGIE

NOOGIE
NOOGIE

IT'S JUST
THE NATURAL
REACTION OF
ANY NORMAL
YOUNG MAN...
OUCH.

YOU'RE HARDLY
A "NORMAL
YOUNG MAN"!

NOOGIE
NOOGIE







Y-YOU WERE
WATCHING...?!

WAS
I REALLY
SWIMMING?!

YEAH, BUT
THAT SWIM
COULD HAVE
KILLED YOU.

Listen to what
I'm saying.

...AT LEAST
REMEMBER TO
BREATHE.

MORON.

IF YOU'RE
REALLY GOING
TO SWIM IN
THE OCEAN...

I'LL SHOW
YOU MORE
SWIMMING!!

I'M TELLING
YOU, YOU'LL
BE KIDNAPPED
BY THE
CURRENTS!

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO!!

YO,
MOMIJI!

SHLOOP

Here
I go!



WH-WHAT
ARE YOU
LAUGHING
ABOUT?!

EH
?!

AH HA
HA HA!



TEACH HER
HOW TO
BREATHE!



Going
"wheel"
through the
waves.

THIS IS
SO FUN!



YOU
WANT
FUN? I'LL
GIVE YOU
FUN!

spin

A-ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?!



.....

OH!

I-I'M SORRY,
KYO-KUN.
Y-YOU'RE IN
THE WATER...
WITH YOUR
CLOTHES ON!...



"DON'T MISUNDER-
STAND."



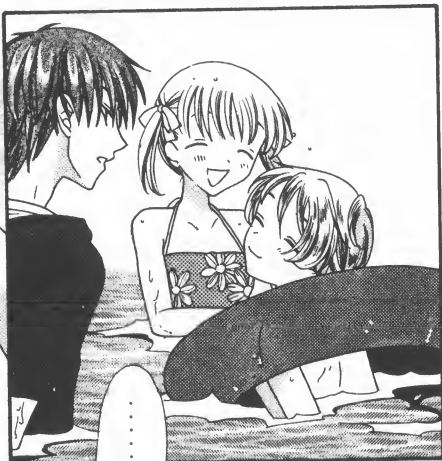
SO KYO
WENT INTO
THE WATER
WITH THEM
AFTER ALL...

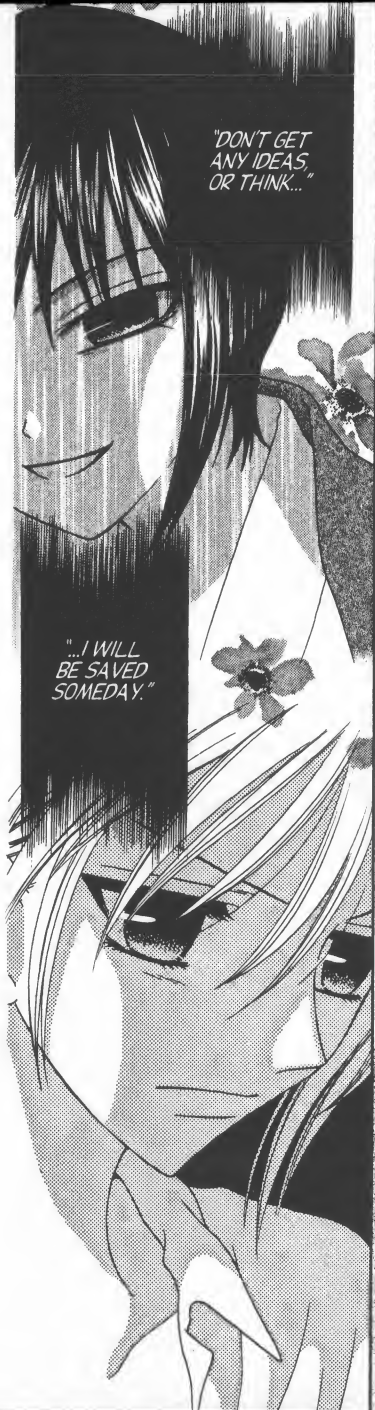
Tohru!
I wanna
turn, I
wanna
turn!

You want
some
of this,
Squirt?

Sploosh

playing
to life-->
guards





"DON'T GET
ANY IDEAS
OR THINK..."

"...I WILL
BE SAVED
SOMEDAY."



"HOPE,
POSSIBILITY...
THOSE
CONCEPTS
DON'T APPLY
TO YOU!"

"YOUR FATE
IS TO STAY ON
THAT PITCH
DARK ROAD
UNTIL YOU DIE."



"THIS WORLD
IS A CRUEL,
DARK PLACE."



"YOUR WHOLE
LIFE WILL BE
LIVED IN THAT
DARKNESS."



IS ALL THE
SUN GETTING
TO YOU?

YOU DON'T
LOOK SO
GOOD.



YUKI-
KUUN!

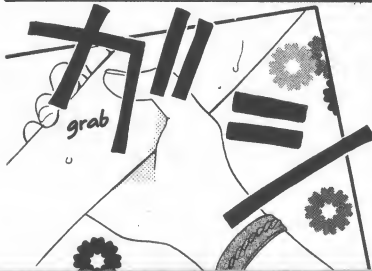


COME JOIN US,
YUKI, HARU!

AH... OKAY!



OR HAVE YOUR
FEELINGS MADE
YOU DIZZY?



SPLISH

SPLISH

YOU
TRYING
TO KILL
ME?!

STOP IT,
YOU IDIOT!
LET GO!

I CHALLENGE
YOU TO A
CONTEST.

SPLASH



EH
?!

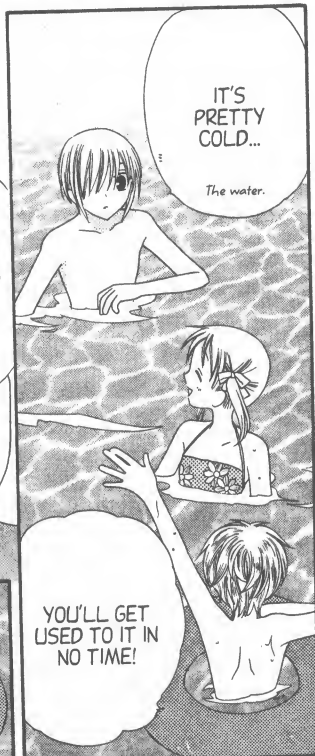
AH! UM!
TH-THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH!!

YOU
LOOK GOOD
IN THAT
SWIMSUIT.

YOU'RE
CUTE.

IT'S THANKS
TO YOU ALL
BUYING IT
FOR ME...

*Tohru is
always cute.*



IT'S
PRETTY
COLD...

The water.

YOU'LL GET
USED TO IT IN
NO TIME!

I SENT LETTERS
TO HARII AND AYA
AND RITCHAN AND
KISA AND HIRO AND
KAGURA TELLING
THEM TO COME!

EVEN NII-
SAN? THAT'S
ALMOST
EVERYONE,
ALL RIGHT...

EH! UM... THAT
IS... BUT... THIS
REALLY IS A
WONDERFUL
PLACE...!

IF ONLY
EVERYONE
ELSE COULD
COME, TOO...

Ah!

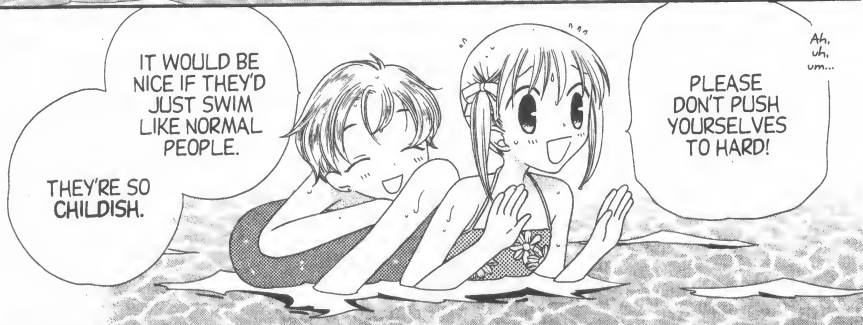
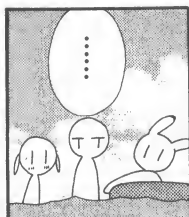
NOT TO
WORRY!

THAT'S
AMAZING!

I HOPE
EVERYONE
COMES!

OOOH...
I CAN'T
WAIT!

YUKI!





WHY WOULD
I WANT TO GO ON
VACATION WITH
THOSE GUYS?

AND WHAT IS
HE ACTING SO
GIDDY ABOUT?
ISN'T HE IN
HIGH SCHOOL,
NOW?

And what's with the rabbit
stationery? Does he think
we're in kindergarten?

I DON'T KNOW
IF I SHOULD BE
OFFENDED OR
FEEL SORRY
FOR HIM.







I'LL BE HEADING
OVER THERE
MYSELF, SOON.

I GUESS
I WON'T BE
SEEING YOU
FOR AWHILE.

TRY NOT TO
MAKE YOURSELF
SICK, AKITO-SAN.



STUPID
SUMMER...
I HATE IT!



IT'S
UNBEARABLY
HOT AND MAKES
EVERYONE
ACT SO DAMN
FOOLISH.

I DON'T FEEL
WELL...
MY HEAD
HURTS.



VERY
FUNNY...

...SEEING AS
HOW SICK
I'M FEELING
ALREADY.



HE LIVES
FOR ME, SO
HE SHOULD
SERVE ME.

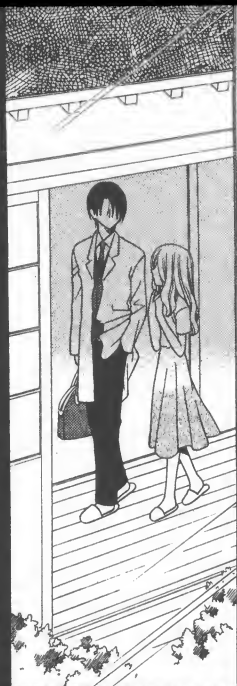
...WHAT DO
I CARE? WHY
SHOULD I HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT
SUCH THINGS?



HATORI HAS SO
MANY THINGS
ON HIS PLATE,
I FEEL BAD
CALLING HIM
SO OFTEN...

CALL
HATORI
FOR ME.

HATORI...



.....

EVEN SO,
I SHOULD
THINK--

...HEY!

rattle

FOOLS...THEY
THINK THEY
UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING.

THEY'RE
GETTING
OVER-
CONFIDENT...

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"VACATION"?

STUPID PEOPLE
AND UGLY
WOMEN MAKING
MERRY...IT'S SO
IRRITATING.



PERHAPS...

...I SHALL HAVE
TO TEACH THEM
A LESSON.



IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?



WHAT
ARE YOU
SMILING
ABOUT?

...WHAT?



...



...YOU SHOULD
COME TO
THE SUMMER
HOME WITH
ME...?

RATHER,
I WAS
THINKING
THAT
PERHAPS...



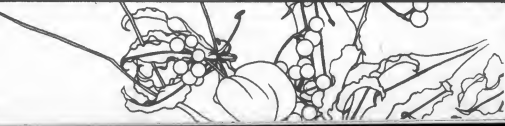
DO YOU
HAVE A
PROBLEM
WITH
WHAT I SAY?



PROBLEM?

IF YOU WANT TO
"TEACH THEM
A LESSON,"
THAT IS.

MY DEAR AKITO-
SAN, I WOULD
NEVER CONSIDER
QUESTIONING
YOUR MOTIVES.



Y-Y-Y-
YUKI-
KUN...!

I
ABSOLUTELY
WILL NOT.

TO SUDDENLY
GET A FEVER LIKE
THAT... I GUESS THE
HEAT REALLY WAS
GETTING TO HIM.

MAYBE
YOU SHOULD
CARRY AROUND
A PARASOL
TOMORROW.

Shut up! I'm going
to bed!! Nobody
wake me up!!

AND THE
SHOCK CAUSED
KYO TO GO TO
BED EARLY OUT
OF SPITE.

MAYBE
HE JUST
OVER-
EXERTED
HIMSELF,
TOO.

Aaahhh...

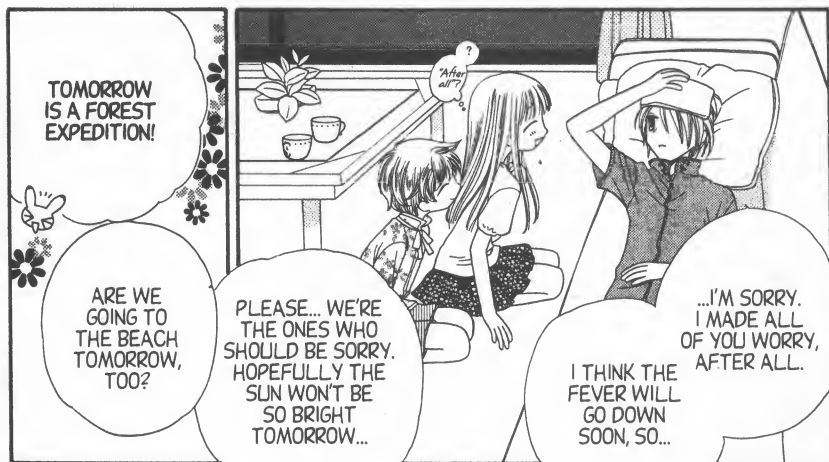
H-H-HANG IN THERE!
TO THINK THAT
WHILE YOU WERE
SUFFERING SO, I WAS
JUST STANDING
THERE WATCHING,
HAVING FUN--!!

Aaahhh!

IT'S JUST A
SLIGHT FEVER.
DON'T WORRY...
CALM DOWN.

YOU
WERE FIRST
PLACE IN THE
CONTEST!

BUT
THAT WAS
AMAZING,
YUKI!!



I WONDER...

I WONDER WHAT
KIND OF TREE A
KUNUGI IS...

WE HAVE TO
PUT SUGAR
WATER ON THE
TREES AND
CATCH STAG
BEETLES!

THEY SAY
THAT KUNUGI
TREES ARE
GOOD FOR
THAT!

Kyo
told
me!

I SEE.
KUNUGI,
IS IT...?

...

Yeah,
on the
ground.

I never really
notice them
until they're
all on the
ground.

Really?
Come to think
of it, I don't
think I have
either...

I'VE NEVER
SEEN ACORNS
IN A TREE
BEFORE!

Aah!

I SEE,
ACORNS...

Oh
yeah!

YOU KNOW,
I BET IT'S A
TREE WITH
ACORNS!

okay!

I'll be right
back.

TAKE
CARE
OF YUKI,
OKAY?

I'LL GO
GET A
BOOK!

pitter
patter
pitter
patter

fug
fug

EH...?

"DON'T
MISUNDERSTAND."

IT'S
NOTHING...

...LIKE
THAT.

...THERE'S
SOMETHING
I SHOULD
TELL YOU
SOMEDAY.

I THINK...

THERE'S
SOMETHING...

...I WANT
TO TELL
YOU.



NOW,
I BELIEVE
THAT...

...IT'S
NOT ALL
JUST...

...A MISUNDER-
STANDING.

WHEN
THE TIME
COMES, IF
YOU WOULD
LISTEN...

...I'D BE
HAPPY.

NOW,
I CAN THINK
THAT...

...THERE'S
MORE TO LIFE
THAN JUST
DARKNESS.

I HAVE TO
OPEN...THAT
TIGHTLY
CLOSED LID.

"I HAVE TO
OPEN THAT
TIGHTLY
CLOSED LID."

OPEN...



...THE
LID...?

I STILL
DON'T
KNOW...

...WHAT
HE'S TRYING
TO SAY...

BUT IT'S
CERTAIN THAT
SOMETHING
INSIDE YUKI-KUN
IS BEGINNING
TO MOVE.

...

YES
!?!?

UWA
A
A
H
!!

TOHRU!!

I WONDER
...

NO...I JUST
GOT LOST IN
THOUGHT. I'M
ALL RIGHT.

N-NO, I-I'T'S
ALL RIGHT.
I'M THE
ONE THAT'S
SORRY.

YOU--
YOU STARTLED
ME, TOHRU.
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID I SCARE YOU
THAT MUCH?

I'm sorry.

I'M SORRY
TO YOU TOO,
YUKI-KUN.

For yelling so loudly...

IS SOME-
THING
WRONG?





MAYBE THE
SUMMER
HEAT IS
MAKING ME
DIZZY, TOO.

I HOPE NOT...

THIS SUMMER
VACATION HAS
ONLY JUST
BEGIN.



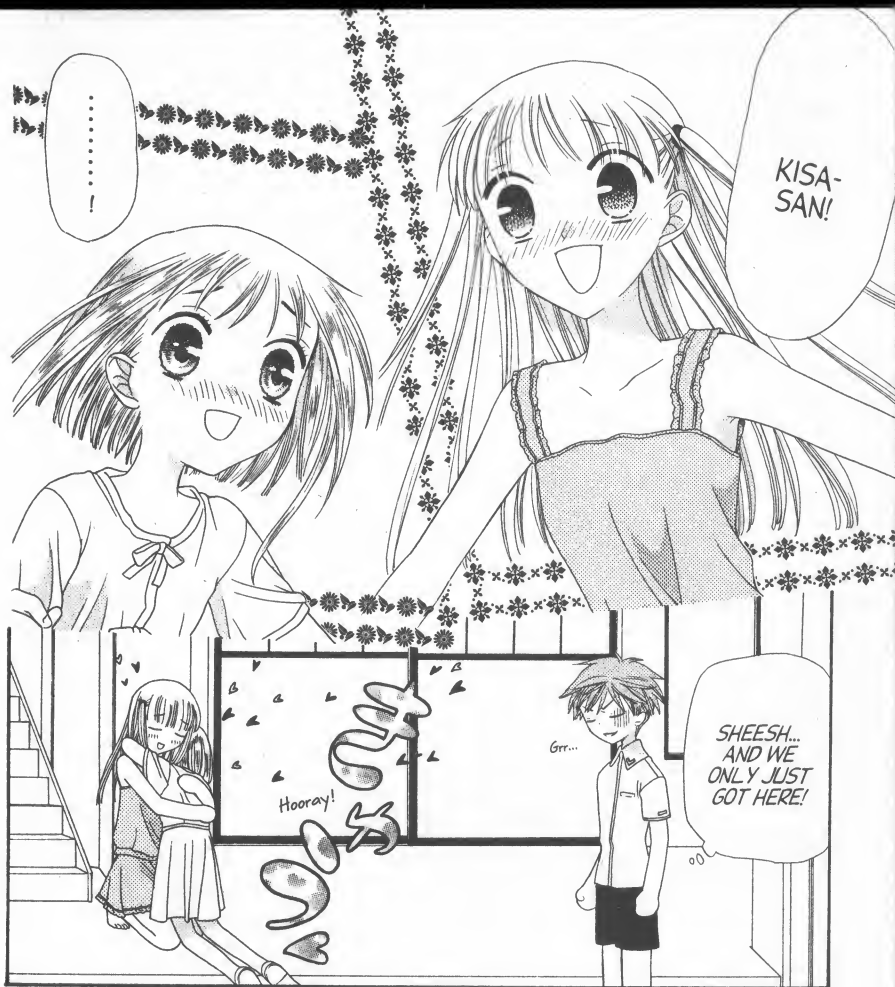
So, you guys
find out how
to catch these
bugs yet?

EH?!

It's not
that
easy!

Chapter 55





BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 2

I like drawing small children. But I guess Kisa and Hiro are at about that age where they'll be getting bigger soon. I look forward to drawing *that*, too!

Fruits Basket 10
Part 2:

Now that Furuba has made it to volume 10, there aren't that many characters left to be introduced. I don't know if I think, "Finally!" or, "Already?" but, when I look back, I can't help but feel as if there are a lot of characters. And yet, I still find myself thinking that there aren't enough... I think I'll start using this space to talk about the characters—give you all some of the worthless trivia that doesn't always come up in the stories themselves. Let's start with the famous Furuba "lost" side characters. So, until the next chapter... Let's go!





AH... YOU
WON'T SHARE
A ROOM UNLESS
IT'S WITH KISA...
HOW PRECOCIOUS.

I NEVER
SAID THAT!



WOULD YOU
STOP DECIDING
THOSE THINGS
ON YOUR OWN?



THERE'S
NO WAY I'M
SHARING A
ROOM WITH
ANYONE!



YOU GOT
HERE
EARLY.



HIRO-
CHA...

OH?
WELCOME,
YOU TWO.



WHY DO
I HAVE
TO SHARE,
ANYWAY?

YOU THINK THAT
JUST BECAUSE
YOU'RE ALL OLDER
THAN ME, YOU
CAN STICK ME IN
WHATEVER ROOM
YOU WANT?

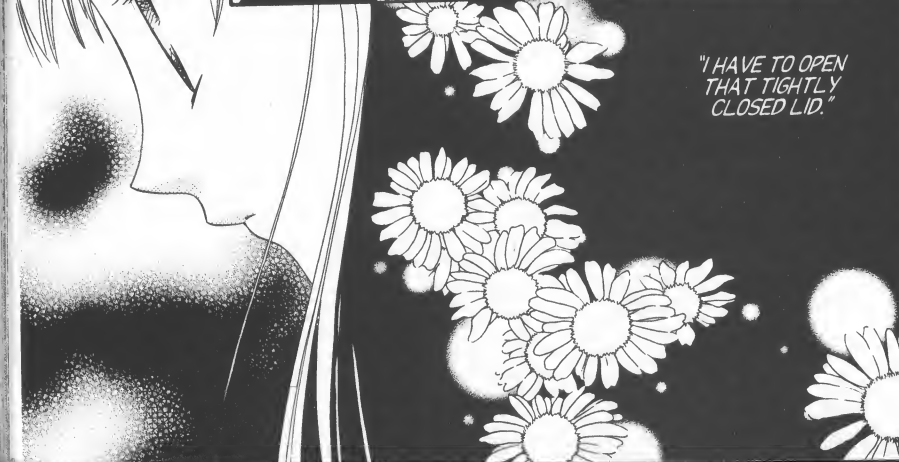
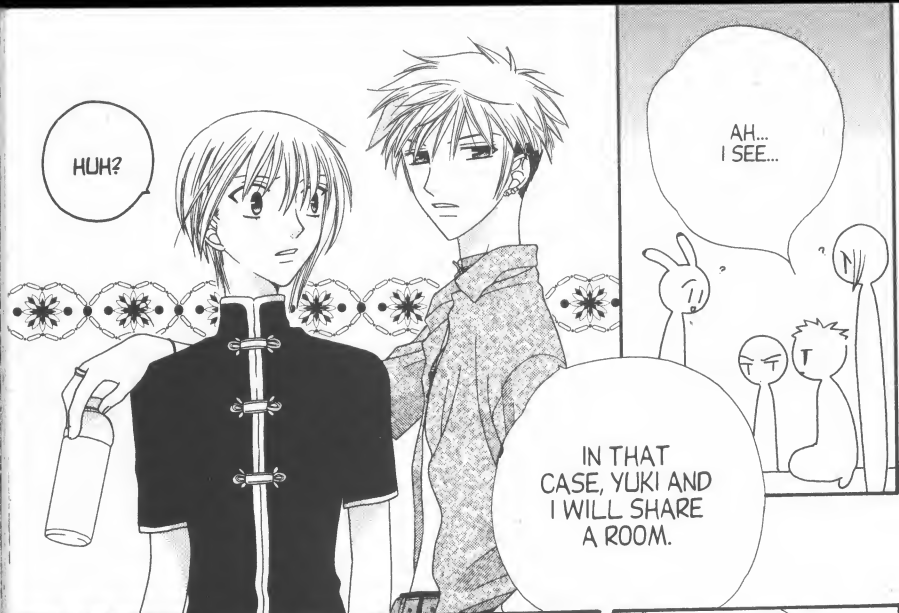
Ah...

IN THAT
CASE--

YOU STAY
QUIET,
STUPID
WOMAN!!



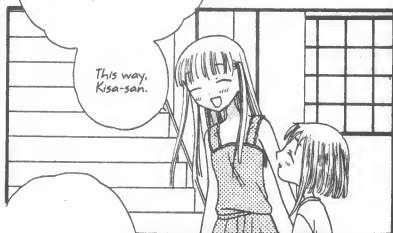
y-
yes!



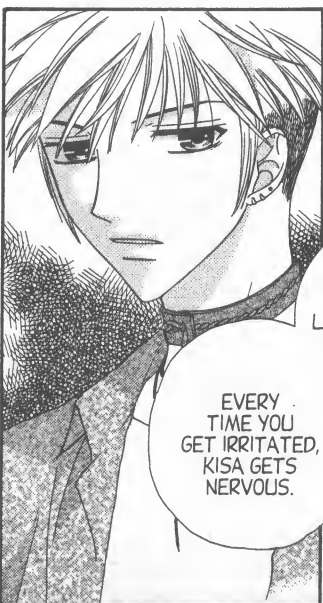
YES!
UNDERSTOOD!

TOHRU, SHOW
HER TO HER
ROOM, 'KAY?

This way.
Kisa-san.

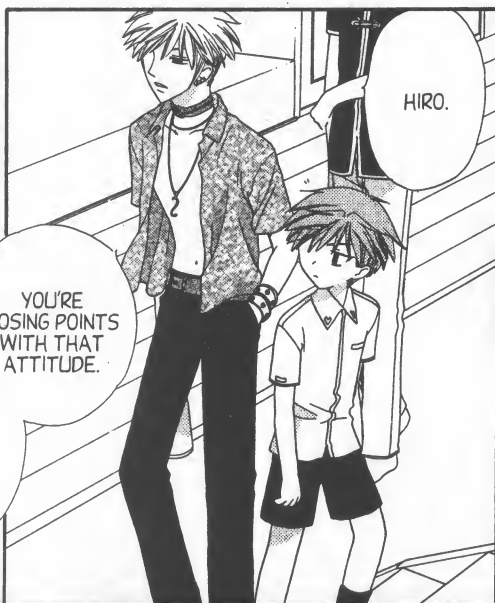


C'MON, HIRO!
OUR ROOM'S
THIS WAY!



EVERY
TIME YOU
GET IRRITATED,
KISA GETS
NERVOUS.

YOU'RE
LOSING POINTS
WITH THAT
ATTITUDE.





stomp
stomp

HE'S
YOUNG...



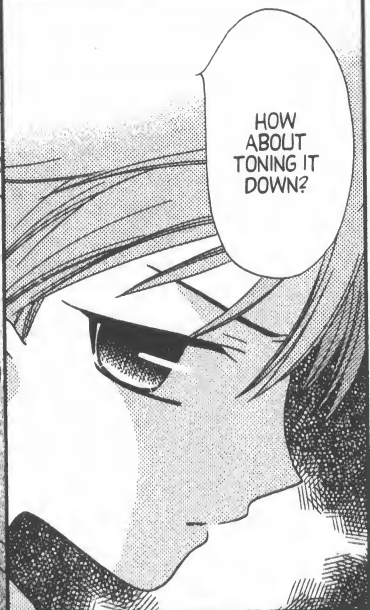
BUT YOU'RE
YOUNG, TOO...

A young old
man.

I KNOW...

I KNOW, BUT I
DON'T LIKE IT...

SEEING THEM
GET ALONG SO
WELL.

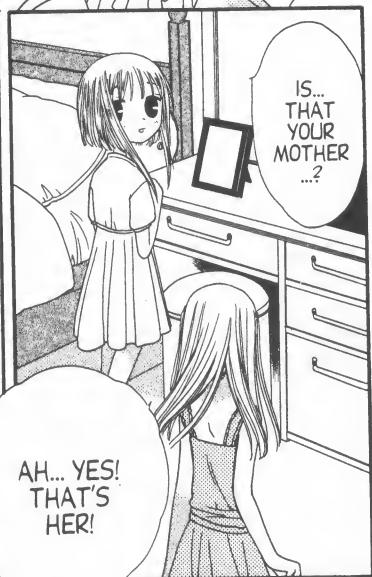
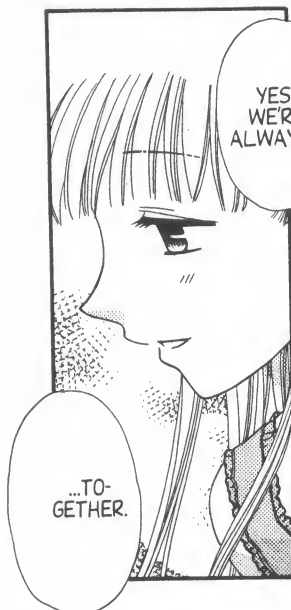
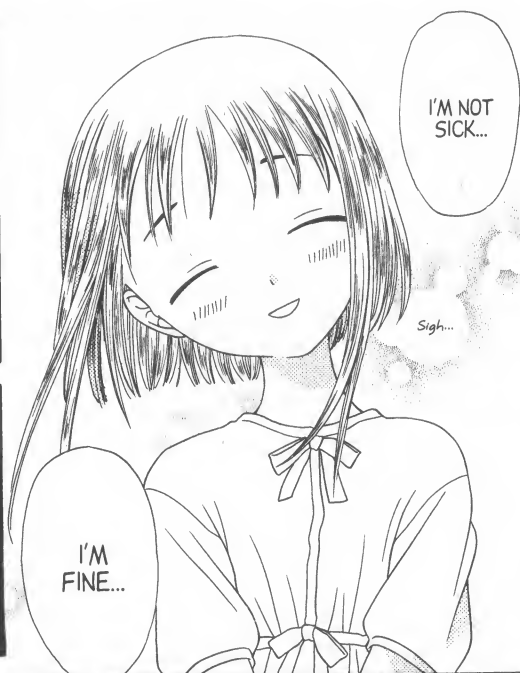


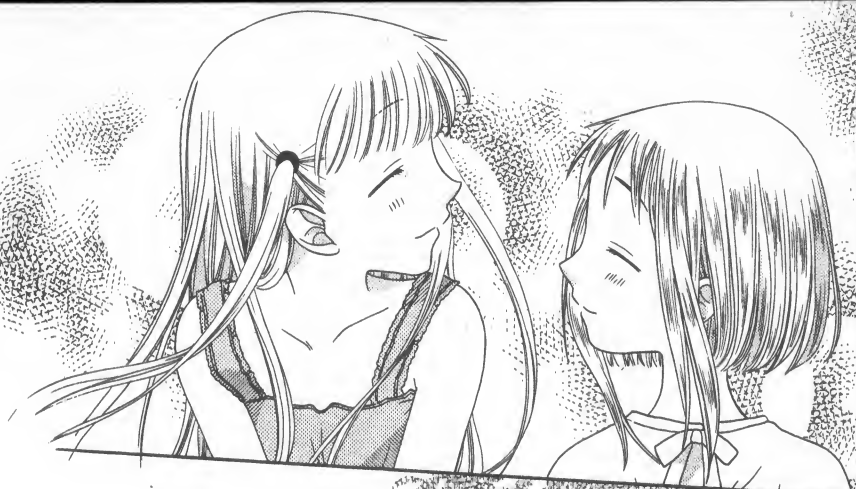
HOW
ABOUT
TONING IT
DOWN?



I DON'T
THINK IT'S
ANY OF YOUR
BUSINESS,
HARU-NII!







WHAT ON
EARTH ARE WE
DOING IN THIS
FOREST?

THIS
WAY!

WE'RE MAKING
PREPARATIONS
TO CATCH STAG
BEETLES!

COMING!

Yes!

AND THAT'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE FUN?



I DON'T SEE
ANY... STAG
BEETLES...

IF YOU
WANT STAG
BEETLES SO
MUCH, WHY
NOT JUST
BUY SOME...?

I FOUND
ONE! A
KUNIGI
TREE!

IF WE LEAVE
A SPECIAL
SOMETHING ON
THIS TREE, THE
STAG BEETLES
WILL COME TO
LICK IT UP.

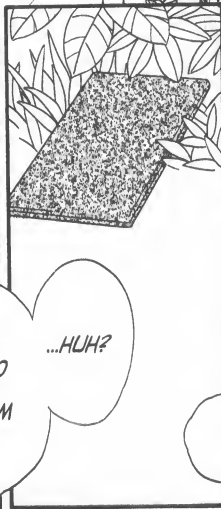
AND THAT
CERTAIN
THING IS--!

SUGAR
WATER!

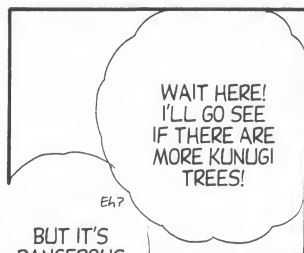


THE PHOTO
WALLET
I TOOK FROM
HER...?

...HUH?

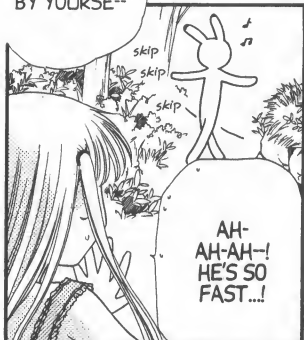


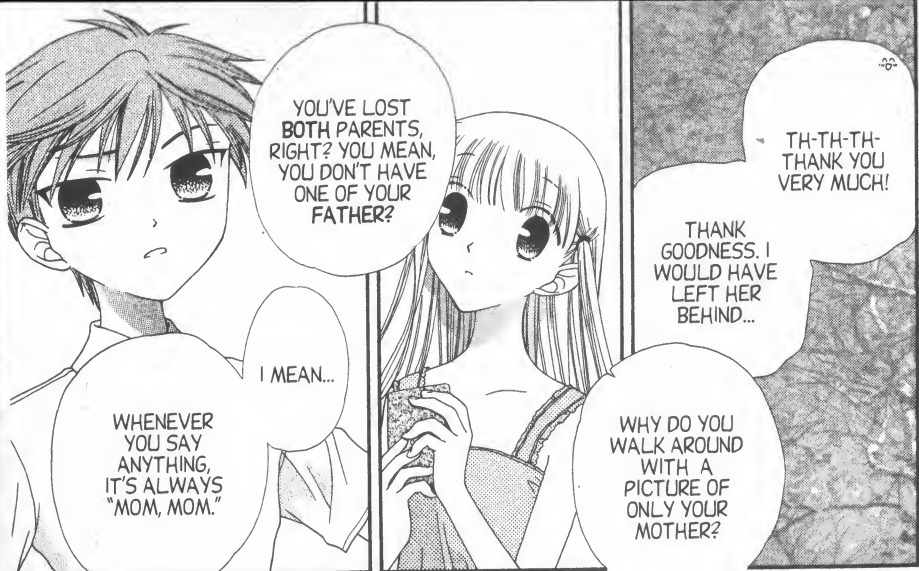
?



Eh?

BUT IT'S
DANGEROUS
BY YOURSE--





YOU'VE LOST
BOTH PARENTS,
RIGHT? YOU MEAN,
YOU DON'T HAVE
ONE OF YOUR
FATHER?

TH-TH-TH-
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!

THANK
GOODNESS. I
WOULD HAVE
LEFT HER
BEHIND...

I MEAN...

WHENEVER
YOU SAY
ANYTHING,
IT'S ALWAYS
"MOM, MOM."

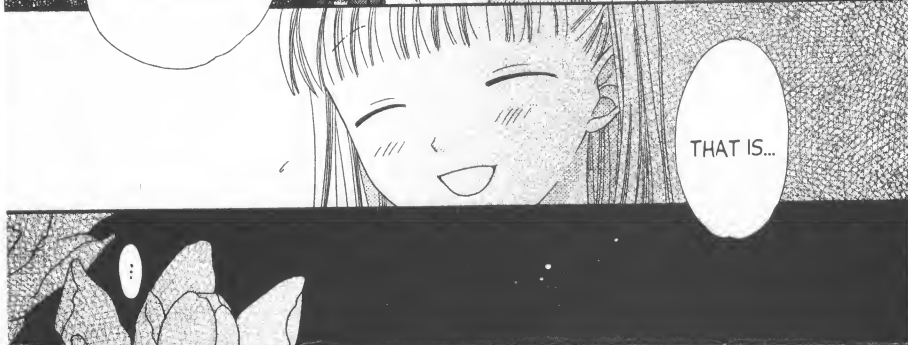
WHY DO YOU
WALK AROUND
WITH A
PICTURE OF
ONLY YOUR
MOTHER?



IT'S LIKE,
THAT'S
ALL YOU
SAY.

THAT'S
A PRETTY
SEVERE
MOTHER
COMPLEX.

DON'T YOU
EVER THINK
ABOUT ANY-
THING ELSE?



THAT IS...



THAT...
IS...



WHAT ON
EARTH IS
WRONG
WITH HER?



HIRO-
CHAN...



HUH?



...EH
HEH
HEH!



WAIT
A--



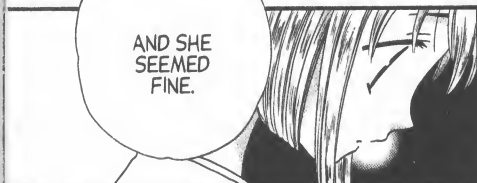
PLEASE
WAIT, YOU
TWO! I'LL
JUST BE A
MINUTE.

I'M WORRIED
ABOUT MOMIJI-
KUN, SO I'M GOING
TO GO LOOK
FOR HIM.



I DON'T
THINK IT'S
THAT BIG
A DEAL.

LIKE
WHAT?



AND SHE
SEEMED
FINE.



...SAY
THINGS
LIKE
THAT...

YOU
SHOULDN'T...

EH?



...SHE WAS
FINE...?

HOW DO
YOU KNOW...



YOU
SHOULDN'T...
SAY IT'S NOT
A BIG DEAL...

YOU'VE
NEVER...
FELT IT.

YOU DON'T
KNOW... WHAT
SHE'S HOLDING
ON TO IN THE
BOTTOM OF
HER HEART...



WH--
WHY DO
I HAVE TO...

I DON'T CARE
ABOUT HER
FEELINGS!

WHY SHOULD
I HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT
THAT?!

WHY DID YOU
COME HERE,
HIRO-CHAN...?



YOU
SHOULDN'T
...

...ASSUME
THINGS
LIKE
THAT...



DID YOU
COME HERE
TO CAUSE
TROUBLE
FOR ONEE-
CHAN...?

Turn...



I THOUGHT
THAT COMING
HERE WOULD
MAKE KISA
HAPPY...
THAT'S WHY.

BUT THEN
I GO AND
MAKE HER
CRY. I'M SO
STUPID.



KISA-SAN?
WHAT'S THE
MATTER...?

I REALLY
AM LOSING
POINTS. I'M
A NO-GOOD,
HOPELESS
LITTLE BRAT,
BRAT, BRAT...



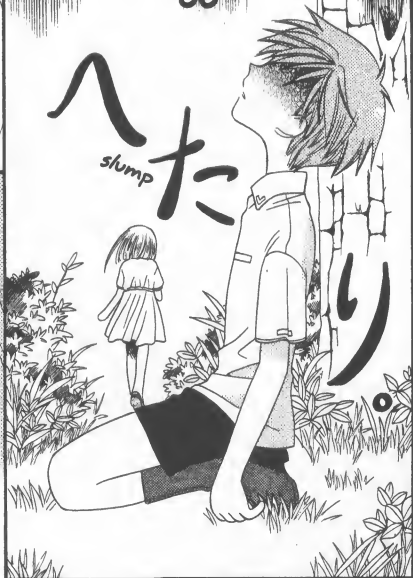
I HAVEN'T
GROWN UP
AT ALL.
WHENEVER
I'M FACED
WITH SOME-
THING I
DON'T LIKE...

IT'S
NOTHING...



...I TAKE
IT OUT
ON OTHER
PEOPLE.

WHY
DID
IT
HAVE
TO
TURN
OUT
THIS
WAY
?!



FEELINGS SHE
HASN'T SHARED
WITH ANYONE...

...IN THE
BOTTOM OF
HER HEART.

I GUESS IT'S
TOO LATE TO
THINK ABOUT
IT NOW...

...HIDING
FEELINGS...

... IN MY
HEART.

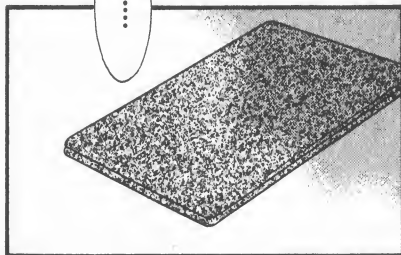
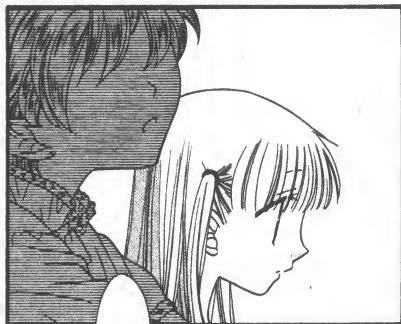
THAT'S
RIGHT.

I'M SURE...
SHE IS, TOO.

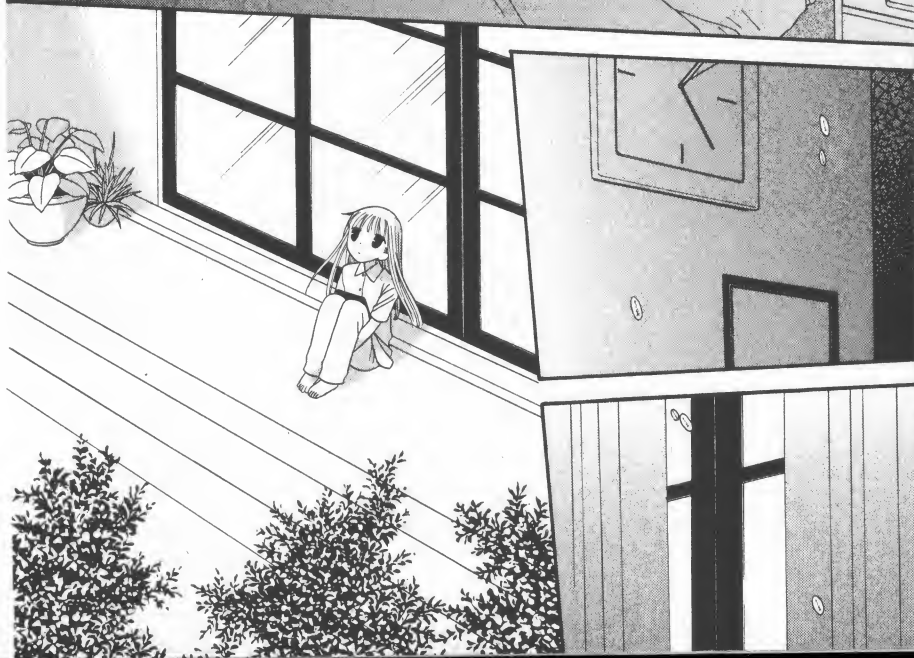
"YOU
DON'T
KNOW."

"YOU
SHOULDN'T
ASSUME
THINGS LIKE
THAT."

JUST
LIKE I'M...



"WHY?"





"WHY?"



THAT'S...



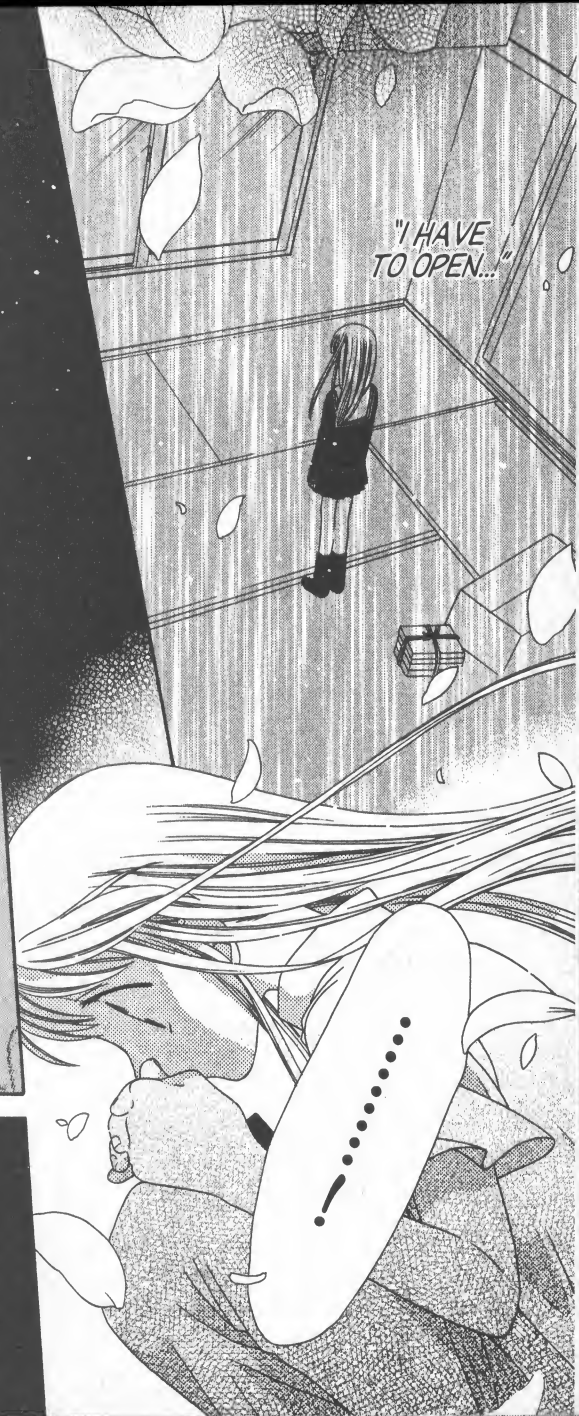
...ALL
RIGHT.

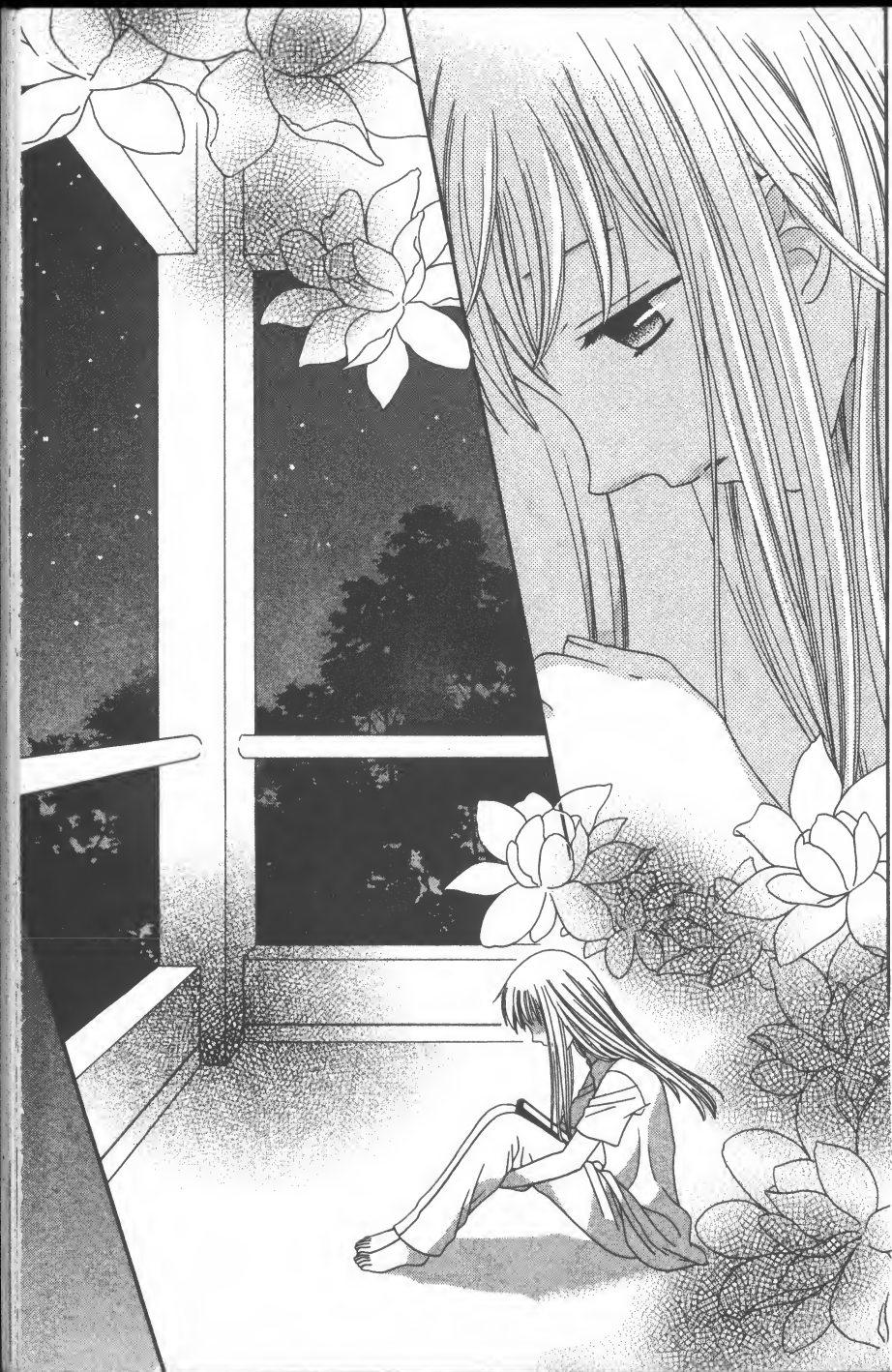
IT'S
ALL RIGHT
...

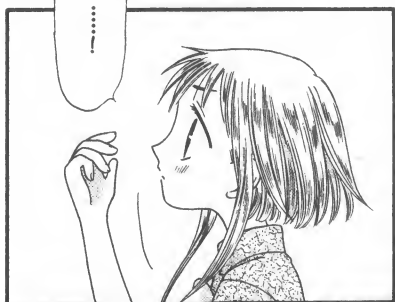
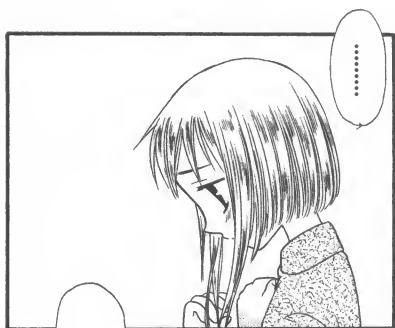
IT'S ALL
RIGHT.
WE'RE
ALWAYS
...

...
TOGETHER.

"I HAVE
TO OPEN..."







KISA
!?!

EH...

EH?!

WHAM

open





...ME
TOO.

I'M THE
ONE WHO
SHOULD
BE...

...SORRY.



I'M
SORRY.

I HAVE
TO...

I'M SORRY,
KISA.

...BECOME...

THERE
ARE STAG
BEETLES!

...A MAN
WHO CAN...

...MAKE
YOU
HAPPY.

HIRO-
SAAAN!

SOMEHOW,
THAT WOMAN
SEEMS EVEN
MORE CHEERFUL
THAN USUAL
THIS MORNING
...

WAS I JUST
THINKING
TOO HARD
YESTERDAY?

IT MIGHT BE
THAT HER NATURAL
STUPIDITY MEANS
THAT HER HEART
IS EXTREMELY
DEEP...

I shouldn't
assume...

No,
wait!

That's
great!

Yes...!

THEY'RE
SO COOL....

I KNOW!
AREN'T
THEY?



Yes!

...THAT'S GREAT.

Kabuto-beetle*

ON SECOND THOUGHT, THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANYTHING INSIDE HER...

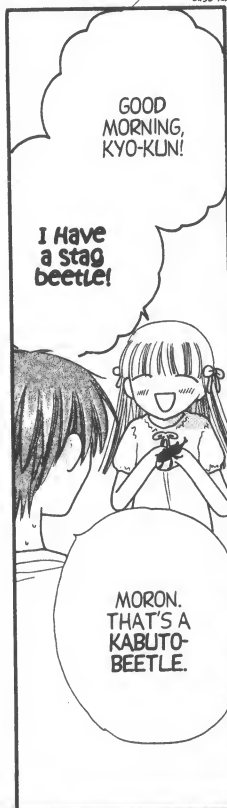
**also known as "helmet beetle"*



HIRO-SAN, HIRO-SAN!

LOOK!
IT'S A SUPER SPECIAL STAG BEETLE!

.....



GOOD MORNING, KYO-KUN!

I Have a stag beetle!

MORON. THAT'S A KABUTO-BEETLE.



AH!
IT'S KYO!

YOU GUYS ARE UP PRETTY EARLY YOURSELVES...

GOOD MORNING!

ARE YOU RUNNING THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING?



HEY!

WHAT
DID YOU
DO THAT
FOR? THAT
HURTS!

YOU...
HAVEN'T
DONE
ANYTHING
TO TOHRU,
HAVE YOU?



EH?
?!

H-HUH?!

MOMIJI-
KUN! MAY I
LOOK AT THE
ENCYCLOPEDIA?!

Sure!~



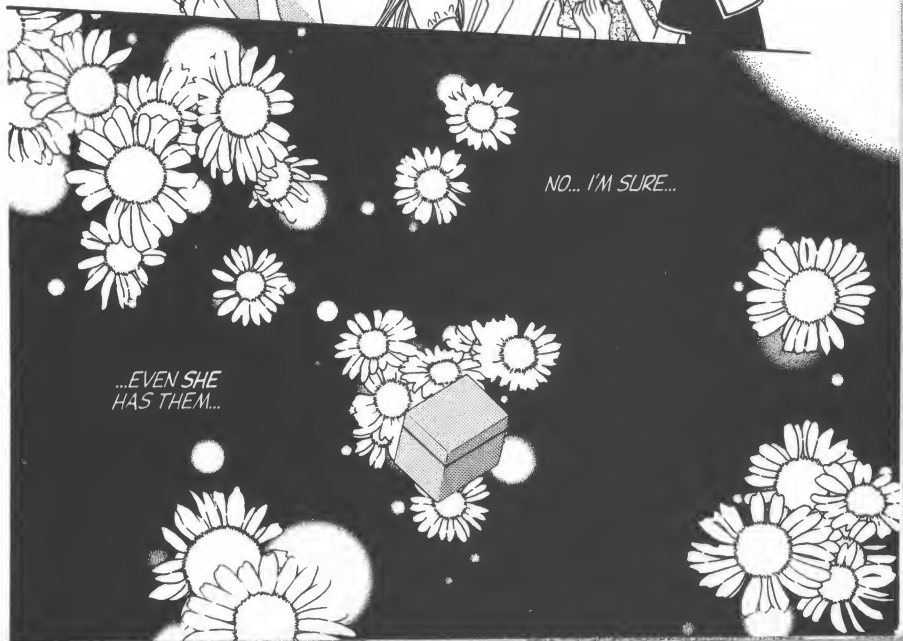
...BUT
SHE'S
NOT ...

...AS
CHEER-
FUL...

WHAT IS THIS?!
FIRST YOU HIT
ME, THEN YOU
MAKE FALSE
ACCUSATIONS?

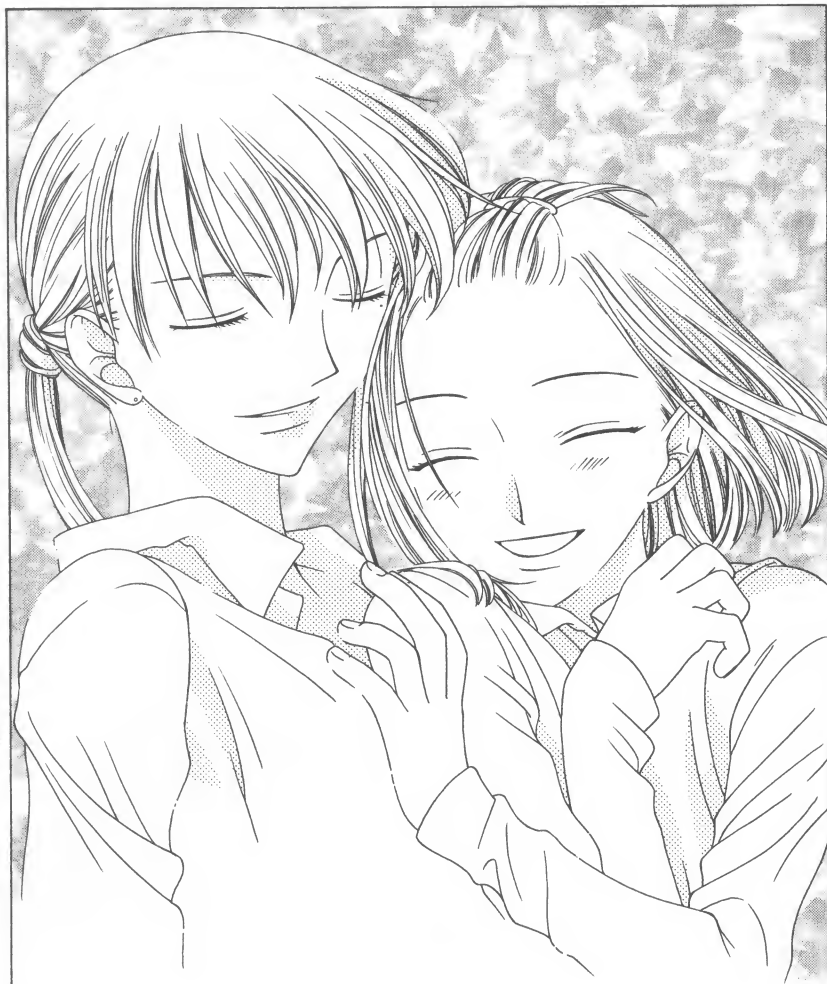
WHAT PROOF
DO YOU HAVE
THAT PUTS ME
IN QUESTION?

I DON'T
KNOW
WHY...



NO... I'M SURE...

...EVEN SHE
HAS THEM...



Chapter 56



BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 3

Mayu-chan has shown her head before (Has her name come up?), as the homeroom teacher for Tohru and the others, but I don't think I ever figured out what it is that she teaches. I think she kind of fits the image of a classic lit teacher.



IN THAT
CASE, YOU
CAN WORK
THE SHOP
FOR ME.

A LIFE
SURROUNDED
BY BOOKS IS
INFINITELY MORE
APPEALING
THAN BEING A
TEACHER.

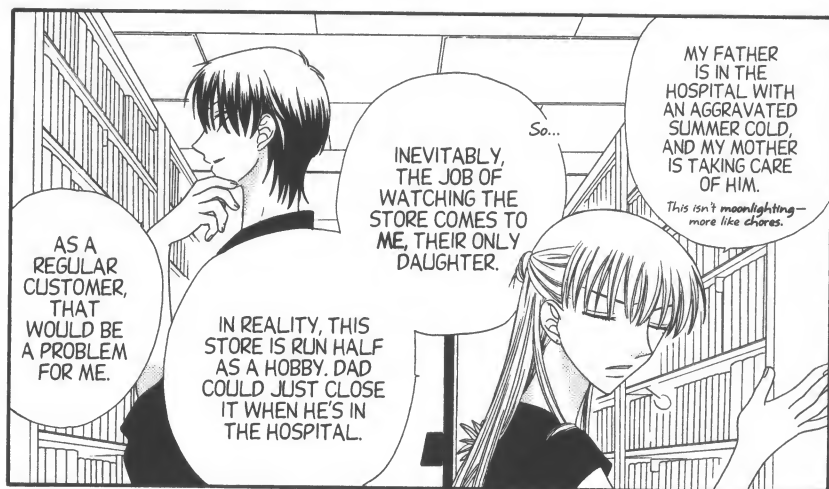
ESPECIALLY
IF THEY'RE
OLD BOOKS.

WHY ARE YOU
TENDING THE
STORE TODAY,
ANYWAY,
MAYU?

YOU'RE SO
NEGLIGENT.

BUT...

Are teachers allowed to
moonlight?



AS A
REGULAR
CUSTOMER,
THAT
WOULD BE
A PROBLEM
FOR ME.

So...
INEVITABLY,
THE JOB OF
WATCHING THE
STORE COMES TO
ME, THEIR ONLY
DAUGHTER.

IN REALITY, THIS
STORE IS RUN HALF
AS A HOBBY. DAD
COULD JUST CLOSE
IT WHEN HE'S IN
THE HOSPITAL.

MY FATHER
IS IN THE
HOSPITAL WITH
AN AGGRAVATED
SUMMER COLD,
AND MY MOTHER
IS TAKING CARE
OF HIM.

*This isn't moonlighting—
more like chores.*



IS THIS WHAT
THEY MEAN BY
A CODEPENDENT
RELATIONSHIP?

WHATEVER
IT IS, I CAN'T
SEEM TO
GET HIM OUT
OF MY LIFE.

AND WHEN
I GO TO SCHOOL,
THERE ARE STILL
SOHMA KIDS.

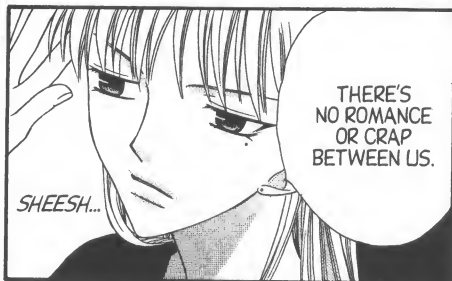
IT'S
BEEN...



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"REGULAR
CUSTOMER"?
YOU'RE JUST
MY PATHETIC
EX-BOYFRIEND.

*So you
know, the
book you
ordered
won't get
here until
tomorrow.*

BUT ISN'T IT
ROMANTIC
THAT WE KEEP
MEETING LIKE
THIS, EVEN
AFTER WE'VE
BROKEN UP?



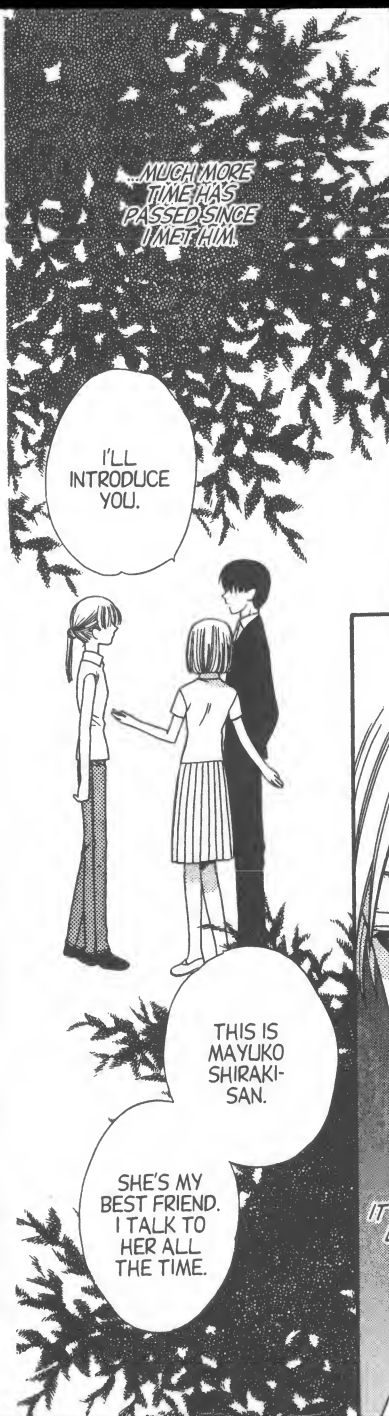
THERE'S
NO ROMANCE
OR CRAP
BETWEEN US.

SHEESH...

Mogeta and his pal Ari



Mogeta?!! Of all things, I start with Mogeta?!! (Let's dig right in...) What volume did they first appear in? Was it four? Ah, it was three. I just looked it up. I think I drew them before, too, but they're characters I drew without thinking too deeply about them. It's been decided that Mogeta is actually female (?), and Ari is a miser. What lousy decisions...



MUCH MORE TIME HAS PASSED SINCE I MET HIM.

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.

THIS IS MAYUKO SHIRAKI-SAN.

SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND. I TALK TO HER ALL THE TIME.

...MORE THAN TWO YEARS SINCE THAT DAY.

TWO YEARS... HUH?

IT SEEMS LIKE...



...THAT
I LIKED
HIM?

WHY DID
I THINK...

I COULD
JUST
TELL...

...RIGHT
AWAY.

BUT I'M SO
STUPID.



MAYU.

THIS
IS HATORI
SOHMA-SAN.



I WORK
AS HIS
ASSISTANT!



NEITHER OF
THEM SAID
ANYTHING...

...BUT I HAD A
FEELING RIGHT
AWAY THAT THEY
WERE TOGETHER.

...MY HEART
BURNED
WITH GUILT.

I'M SORRY. KANA
WASN'T BEING
UNREASONABLE,
WAS SHE?

OF
COURSE
NOT.

I MEAN... I
DIDN'T THINK
HE'D COME
ALONE...

...MAYU.

I'LL CHOOSE MY
OWN BOOK. YOU
DON'T HAVE TO
STAY HERE...

HEY, MAYU,
IS IT ALL
RIGHT...

...IF I TELL
HATORI
ABOUT YOUR
FAMILY'S
STORE?

IT MIGHT
SOUND
ROMANTIC
TO CALL
IT LOVE
AT FIRST
SIGHT...

IT HAS A LOT
OF THE TYPE
OF OLD BOOKS
HATORI LIKES...

...BUT IT WAS
STILL THE
ILLICIT LOVE OF
MY BEST FRIEND'S
BOYFRIEND.

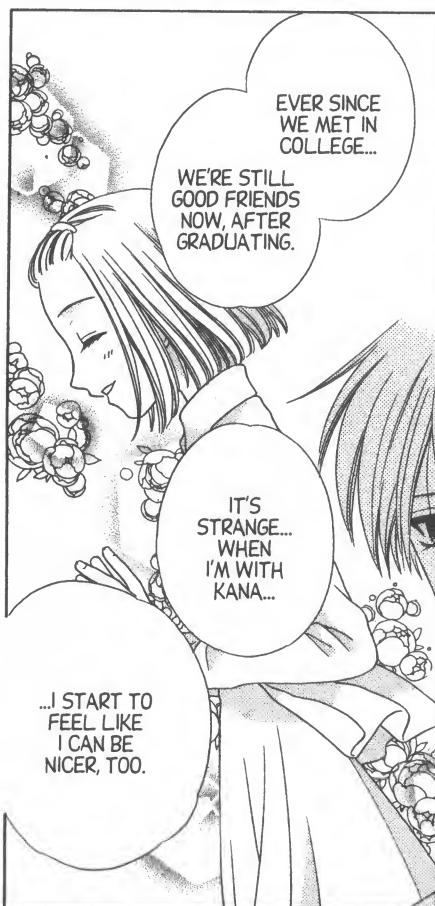
EVERY TIME
KANA SMILED
AT ME, NOT
KNOWING...



KANA
ALWAYS
CALLS
YOU THAT.
I GUESS IT
RUBBED
OFF.

OH...
EXCUSE
ME.

THAT'S
BOLD OF
YOU TO
CALL ME
THAT.



EVER SINCE
WE MET IN
COLLEGE...

WE'RE STILL
GOOD FRIENDS
NOW, AFTER
GRADUATING.

IT'S
STRANGE...
WHEN
I'M WITH
KANA...

...I START TO
FEEL LIKE
I CAN BE
NICER, TOO.



SHE TALKS
ABOUT YOU
OFTEN...
YOU MUST
BE GOOD
FRIENDS.

SHE
TRUSTS
YOU.



THAT'S
BECAUSE
WE'RE BEST
FRIENDS.



.....


YOU'RE
RIGHT.



SHE'S
EXACTLY
WHAT
I ADMIRE
IN A
PERSON.



SHE'S CARE-
FREE AND
CHEERFUL.



SHE SMILES
WHEN SHE'S
HAPPY, AND
CRIES WHEN
SHE'S SAD.

I WISH...



I THINK
I UNDERSTAND.



...I COULD
HAVE
BEEN LIKE
THAT.



...HIS EXISTENCE...

I LOVED
THEM ALL.

HIS VOICE,
HIS EYES...

...HIS SHAPE...





DESPITE
THAT, I MET
SHIGURE AND
AYA-KUN...

...AND
LEARNED
MORE AND
MORE
ABOUT
HIM.

...FORGOTTEN
ALL ABOUT
HIM.



YEAH...SHE
WAS SAYING
THAT.

KANA-CHAN
SAYS SHE'D LIKE
TO GO DRINKING
TOGETHER AGAIN.

I REALLY
AM STUPID.



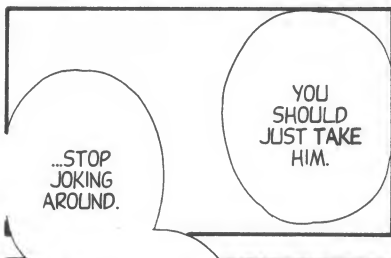
THERE ARE
TIMES WHEN
IT'S SAFER
NOT KNOWING.

I WONDER
WHY THEY
DON'T JUST
SAY SO.

THOSE
TWO...

THEY'RE
GOING OUT,
AREN'T
THEY?

...





OKAY... WHY
NOT GO OUT
WITH ME,
THEN?

...HUH?

THAT'S
WISE OF
YOU.

....

I WANT
THEM TO
GET TO
A PLACE
I CAN'T
REACH.



SO I'LL
GO OUT
WITH YOU.

AND I'VE
BEEN
BORED.



AND WHAT
MAKES YOU
THINK I'D
CONSIDER
THAT?

BECAUSE
YOU SEEM
LONELY.

YOU'RE AT A
POINT WHERE
YOU DON'T
CARE WHO IT
IS, AS LONG AS
THEY'RE WITH
YOU, RIGHT?



IT'S
ALMOST
IMPOSSIBLE
TO FIND
WORDS TO
DESCRIBE A
MAN LIKE
SHIGURE.

HE'S LIKE
A RIPPLE
IN THE
WATER.

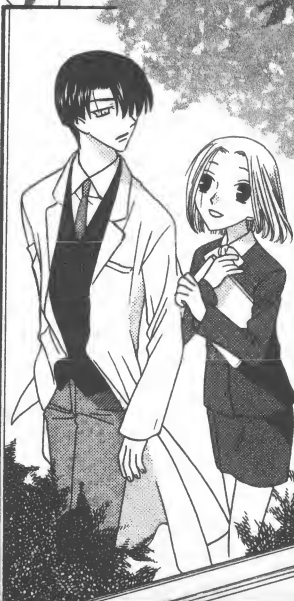
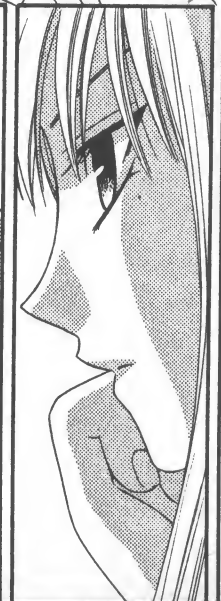
HE NEVER
KISSED ME OR
HELD ME...

WHEN I TOLD
THEM I WAS
GOING OUT WITH
SHIGURE...

...THE LOOKS ON
THEIR FACES, AS
IF THEY WERE
AT A LOSS FOR
WORDS, WERE A
LITTLE AMUSING.



HE WAS
JUST WITH
ME.



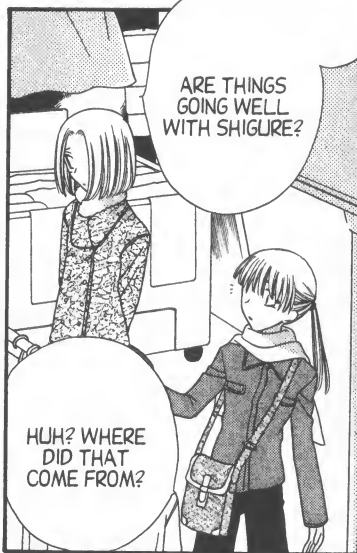




BECAUSE...
YOU WORRY
SO MUCH
ABOUT OTHERS,
MAYU...

...THAT
SOMETIMES
YOU FORGET
TO TAKE
CARE OF
YOURSELF.

I'M WORRIED
ABOUT WHETHER
YOU'RE TRULY
HAPPY OR NOT.



MAYU...

ARE THINGS
GOING WELL
WITH SHIGURE?

HUH? WHERE
DID THAT
COME FROM?



OH NO!
I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T
MEAN TO...

EH
?!

...THANK
YOU!

I'M ALL
RIGHT.



SO SHIGURE
HASN'T WON
YOU OVER YET,
KANA?

...I SEE.





AH...

IT'S
MAYU...

YOU
CAME
...



...TO...

...TO
SEE...
ME?



THAT'S
WHY,
KANA...

...YOU
SHOULD BE
HAPPY.

BE
HAPPY.



BUT... IT
REALLY
HAS BEEN A
LONG TIME.

I HADN'T HEARD
ANYTHING, SO
I STARTED TO
WORRY.

TODAY I HAD
SHIGURE HELP
ME SNEAK IN.



I'M SORRY.
IT'S BEEN SO
LONG SINCE
WE'VE SEEN
EACH OTHER.

I MUST LOOK
LIKE SUCH A
MESS...

AREN'T WE
CLOSE ENOUGH
THAT YOU DON'T
NEED TO WORRY
ABOUT THAT?



...
HATORI
...

HATORI,
YOU
KNOW...

HAVE
YOU...SEEN
HATORI?

EH? NO,
I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM...



IT WAS
BECAUSE
OF ME.

IT...

HE
HURT...

...IT...

...HIS EYE.



KANA...

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

WHAT
CAN I DO?
IT...

IT...

IT CAN'T
BE FIXED...
IT'S ALL MY
FAULT.

I WAS...RIGHT
THERE, BUT...
BUT HE...
GOT HURT
SO BADLY!

I...

I COULDN'T
...

...PROTECT
HIM!

PROTECT
HIM...

THAT FACT
COULDN'T BE
CHANGED.

IT WAS
BROKEN.

IT WAS
ALL
OVER.

JUST LIKE
THAT...

...THEIR HAPPINESS
WAS BROKEN.

...STAYING
IN BED FOR
SO LONG...

...I MUST HAVE
WORRIED YOU,
TOO, MAYU.

SEE?

I TOLD YOU
IT WOULD BE
BETTER NOT
TO SEE HER,
DIDN'T I?

.....

ARE YOU
GOING TO SEE
HATORI?

THE
REASONS
THAT
LED UP
TO THIS...

NONE
OF THAT
MATTERED.



ARE YOU
SURE? YOUR
CHEEKS
ARE STILL
SUNKEN.

Ah
ha ha...

OF COURSE,
HATORI-SAN
SAYS THAT FOR
NOW I STILL
NEED TO
RECUPERATE.

I'M ALL
RIGHT NOW.

HOW MUST
HE HAVE FELT
WHEN HE
ERASED KANA'S
MEMORIES?

AH...
I'VE BEEN
MEANING TO
ASK, MAYU...

IS IT TRUE
YOU BROKE
UP WITH
SHIGURE-
SAN?

OH...
YEAH.

NOTHING...

I DID GET
SHIGURE TO
TELL ME
ABOUT ONE
THING--

MEMORY
SUPPRESSION.

SO I THINK I'LL
GO BACK TO
MY MOTHER'S
FAMILY AND
REST.

...YOU
REALLY HAVE
FORGOTTEN
EVERYTHING,
HAVEN'T
YOU?

HUH?





BE
HAPPY.

BE
HAPPY.

MAYU...?

SADNESS...

LONELINESS...

MAYU

...

WHAT'S
WRONG?

THOSE ARE
NOT THE FEELINGS
ONE HOPES TO
HAVE WHEN
FALLING IN LOVE

...THE MEMORY
OF THOSE
TWO AND THE
HAPPINESS
THEY ALMOST
SHARED.

BUT FROM
THAT DAY...

...I NEVER
WANTED TO
FORGET...

YOU
KNOW,
MAYA...



...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S STILL HOLDING ON TO THOSE MEMORIES...

...EVEN MORE THAN TWO YEARS LATER.



...AND HATORI HAS A GIRL-FRIEND.



YOUR SENSE OF DUTY TO YOUR FRIENDS IS ADMIRABLE...

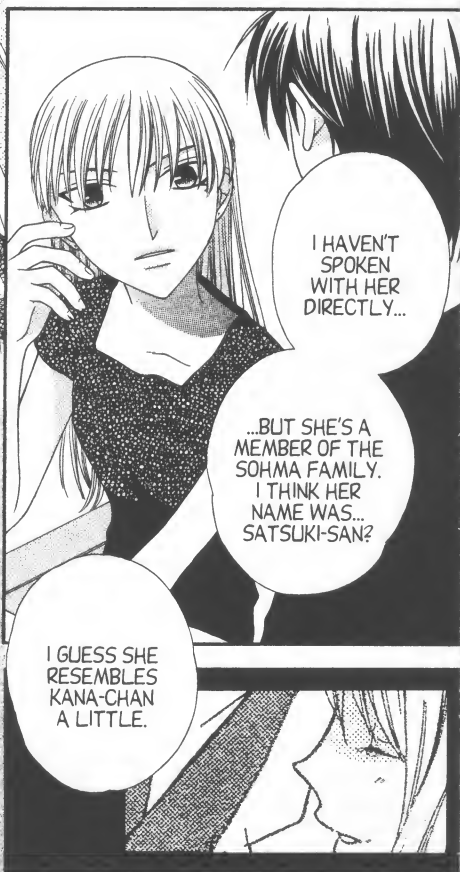
...BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU STOPPED ADMONISHING YOURSELF?

KANA-CHAN IS MARRIED...



...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE FACT THAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HATORI ONCE SINCE THEN IS ADEQUATE PROOF.





BECAUSE
I KNOW...

...GO OUT
WITH SOME-
ONE JUST
BECAUSE I'M
LONELY...

...EVER
AGAIN.

LOOK
WHO'S
TALKING.

YOU'RE
SO COLD
...

DO YOU
EVEN HAVE
FEELINGS
OF YOUR
OWN?

I WON'T...

...THAT THE
LONELINESS
WILL ONLY
INCREASE.

I RELIEVED
YOU OF YOUR
BOREDOM,
DIDN'T I?

TRUE, TRUE.
I'M NOT SAYING
STUPID WOMEN
ARE WITHOUT
THEIR USES.

THAT'S
WHAT I'M
SAYING...

...IS STUPID
ABOUT YOU.



THE TWO OF
THEM FOUND
THEIR OWN
HAPPINESS.

I WONDER IF I
CAN FIND IT...

MAYBE I
SHOULD...

...THIS
TIME...?

...GO FIND
MY OWN
HAPPINESS.



MAYBE
THIS TIME...

...I CAN
FIND LOVE
WITHOUT
LONELINESS..

...kerC

Filler
Sketch



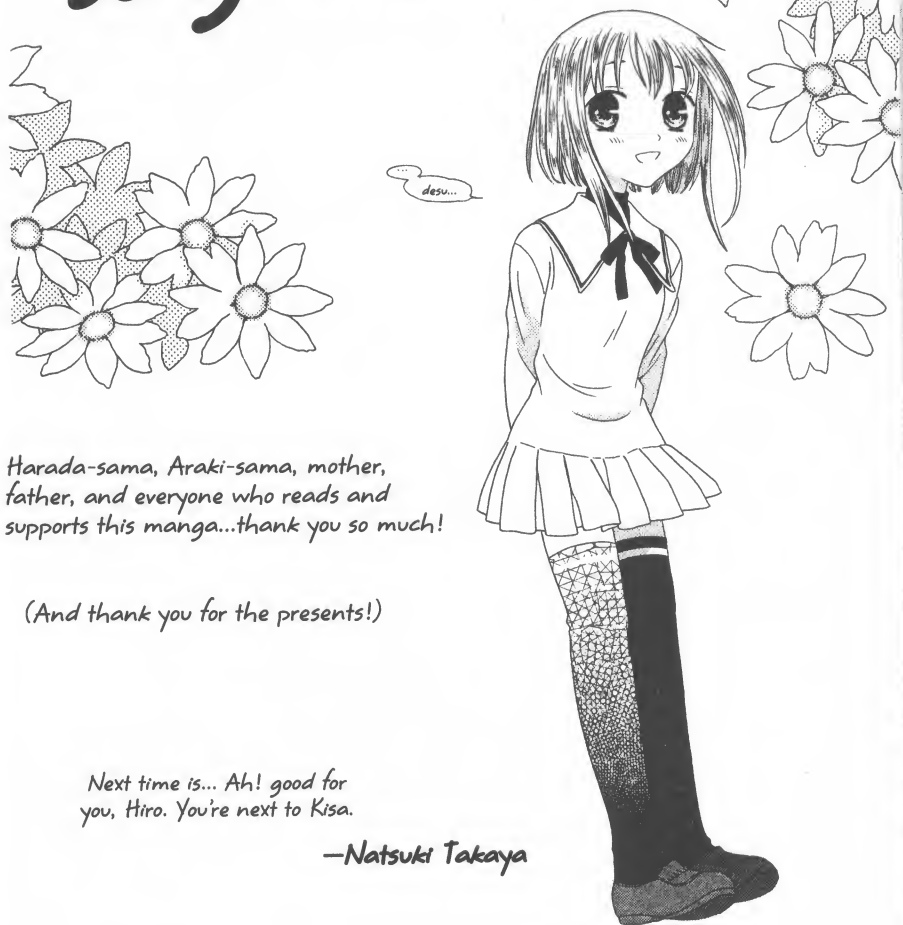
Not near. Not far. Someday.

Chapter 57





I feel so grateful!



Harada-sama, Araki-sama, mother,
father, and everyone who reads and
supports this manga...thank you so much!

(And thank you for the presents!)

Next time is... Ah! good for
you, Hiro. You're next to Kisa.

—Natsuki Takaya



BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 4

Anyway, it doesn't really matter what I write here, so— There are times when I cry suddenly, like turning on the lights, without caring what's around me, and times when I can't do anything but cry. Afterwards, I like to happily eat rice.



IT HASN'T
CHANGED...



THIS
SHOP.



NEITHER
HAVE
YOU.

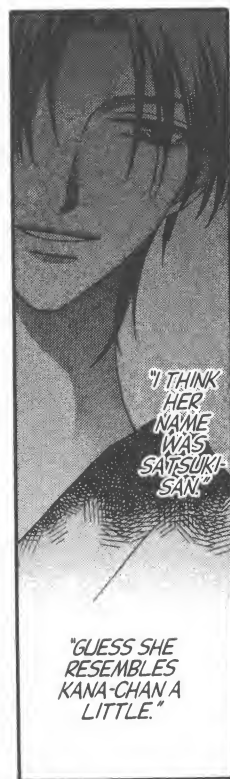
HATORI...
KUN.



NO.



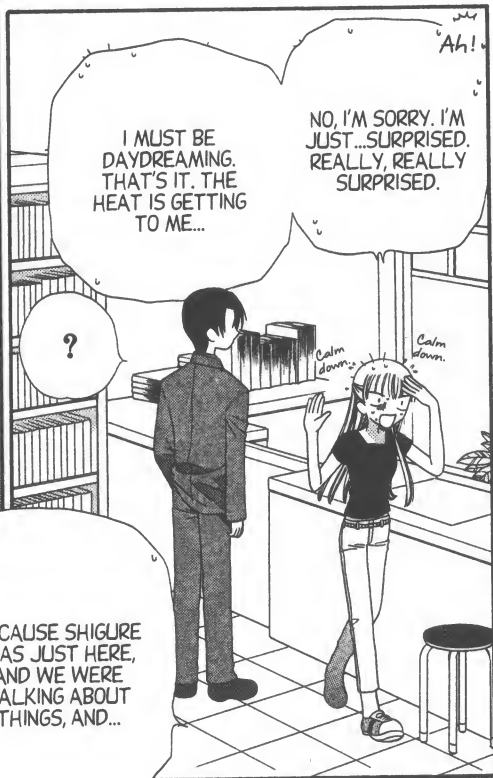
IT'S BEEN
MORE THAN
TWO YEARS,
HASN'T IT?



"GUESS SHE RESEMBLES KANA-CHAN A LITTLE."



'HASA GIRL-FRIEND...'



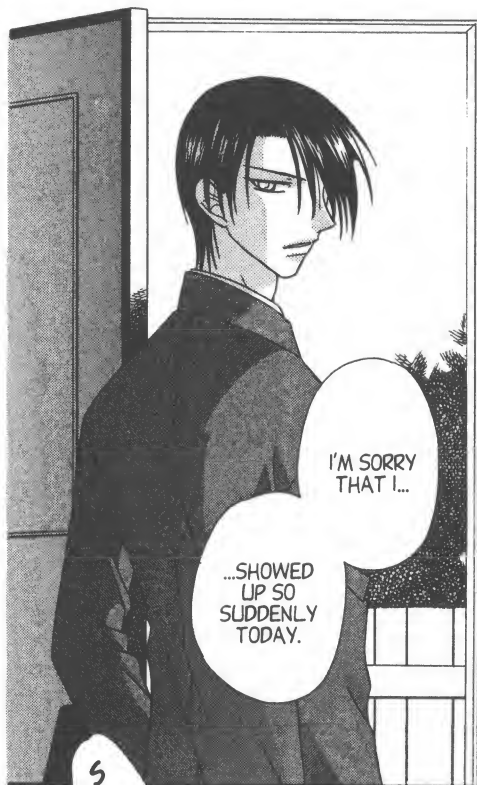
I MUST BE DAYDREAMING. THAT'S IT. THE HEAT IS GETTING TO ME...

NO, I'M SORRY. I'M JUST ...SURPRISED. REALLY, REALLY SURPRISED.

BECAUSE SHIGURE WAS JUST HERE, AND WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THINGS, AND...







I'M SORRY
THAT I...

...SHOWED
UP SO
SUDDENLY
TODAY.

shut...



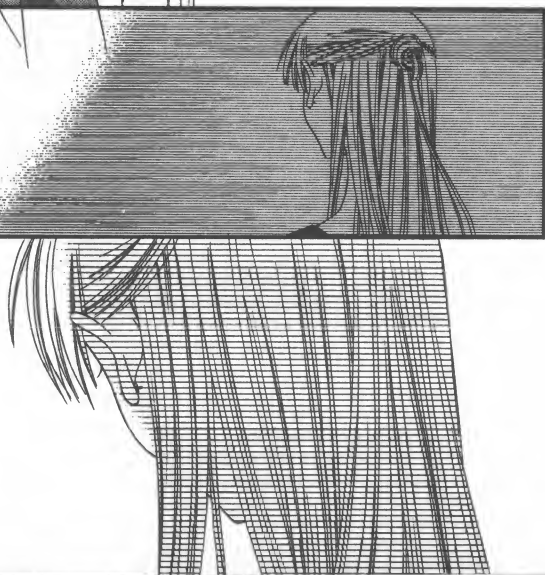
...AH...

UH... NO...

TOMORROW...
THEN.



YEAH.



AH,
DAMMIT!!

IT'S SUMMER
BREAK. IF I CALL
SHIGURE'S HOUSE
ONE OF THE KIDS
MIGHT PICK UP!

She
doesn't
know
they're at
a summer
home.

YOU! IDIOT, GET A
CELL PHONE. I'M
NOT LETTING YOU
OFF THE HOOK
FOR THIS!

STOMP
た
STOMP
た
STOMP
た
STOMP
た

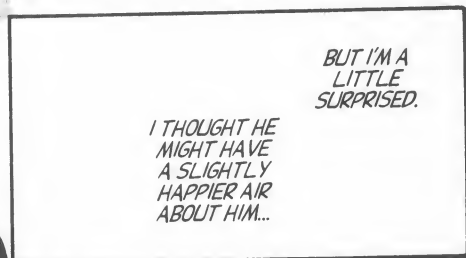




I COULDN'T
TELL HIM
THAT...

...I'M GLAD
HE HAS A
GIRLFRIEND.

MAN,
I'M THE
WORST.



BUT I'M A
LITTLE
SURPRISED.

I THOUGHT HE
MIGHT HAVE
A SLIGHTLY
HAPPIER AIR
ABOUT HIM...

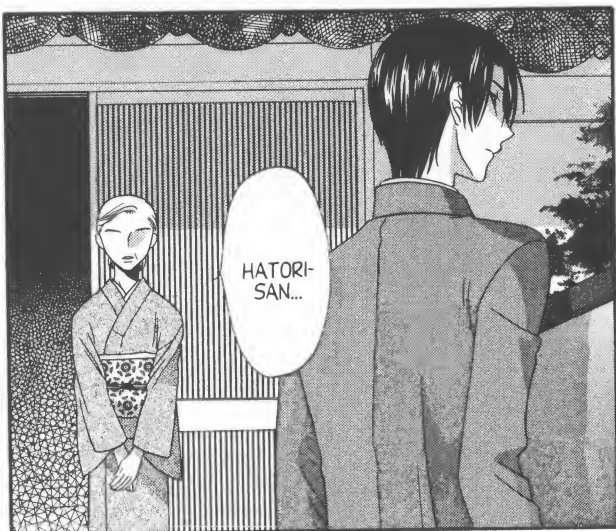


BUT FOR
SOME
REASON,
JUST NOW,
HATORI-KUN
SEEMED...

Minami Kinoshita



She started appearing in the first chapter. If you were to say she's an old character, you'd be correct! A youth that never stops... a youth that plunges ever forward! She doesn't worry about what's going on around her (let's try doing that). But it's good that she's energetic. She really does love Yuki, but doesn't seem to think of actually touching the real thing. That, too, is youth. Motoko's like that, too.



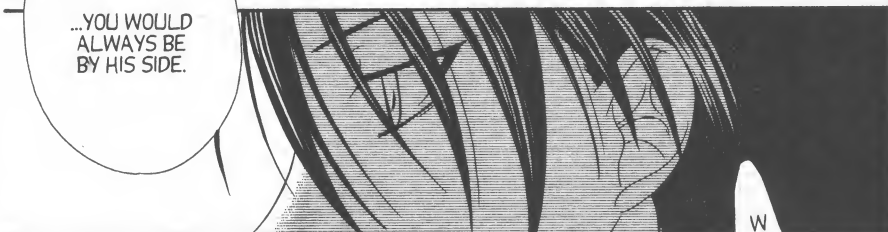


IF YOU CARED
ANYTHING FOR
THE FEELINGS
OF AKITO-SAN,
WHO TRUSTS
YOU ABOVE
ANYONE ELSE...

HATORI-
SAN, YOU WILL
PLEASE REFRAIN
FROM GOING OUT
SO OFTEN.

SOMETHING
MIGHT
HAPPEN.

...YOU WOULD
ALWAYS BE
BY HIS SIDE.



WELL, THEN,
HATORI-SAN,
PLEASE HURRY.

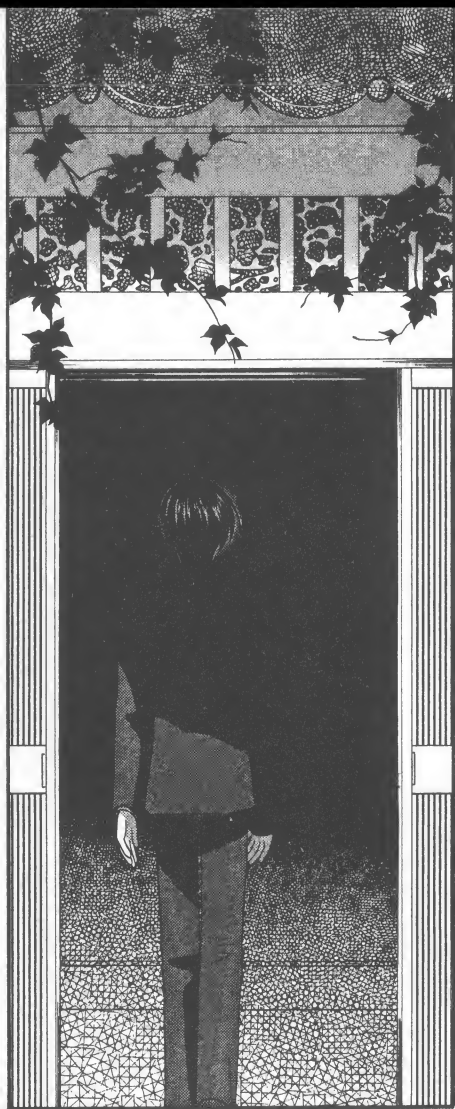
HOW
DISGRACEFUL...

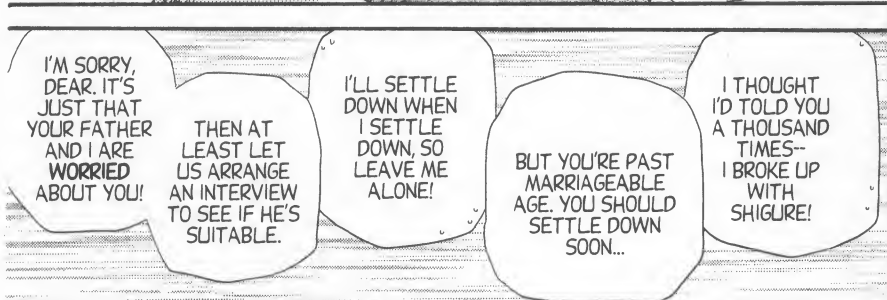
CRYING SO
LOUDLY...

OH MY...
I WONDER
WHAT THE
MATTER IS.

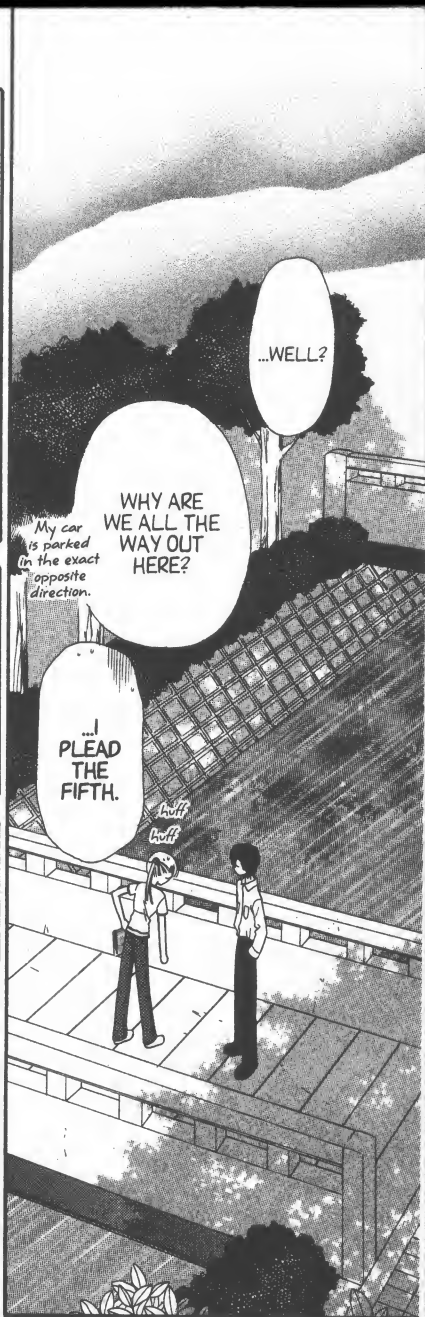


W
A
A
A
H!











I'M JUST
DRIFTING
ALONG.



HEE
HEE
HEE...

HEH
HEH!

...IS
SOMETHING
FUNNY?

SORRY...
NO.

Hee hee...



NO, NOT
REALLY.

WHAT'S
WRONG,
HATORI-
KJIN?

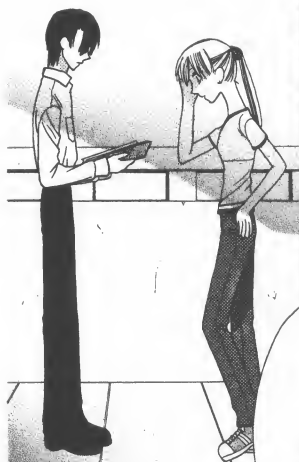
I THOUGHT
THIS YESTER-
DAY, TOO,
BUT...

DID
I HURT
YOU?

...YOU...
DON'T SEEM
WELL.

FEELINGS
LIKE THOSE...

...WOULD
HAVE
NOTHING TO
DO WITH ME.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
TRYING TO SAY.

*THE
KANA
THING IS
OVER.*

*AND HE
HAS A NEW
GIRLFRIEND,
RIGHT?*

*SO
WHY...?*

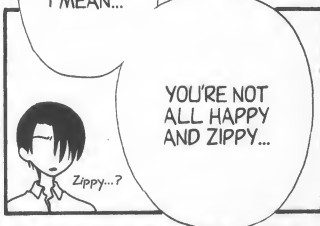
I'M NOT
WORRIED
ABOUT YOUR
HEALTH.

*No, I'm glad
that you're
healthy.*

THERE'S
NOTHING
ESPECIALLY
WRONG WITH
MY HEALTH.



I MEAN...



Zippy...?

YOU'RE NOT
ALL HAPPY
AND ZIPPY...



LIKE BACK
THEN...

YOU AREN'T
GIVING OFF
THAT HAPPY
AURA... YOU
KNOW?



I DON'T
KNOW...

I JUST
DON'T
KNOW.

OF COURSE
I WANT TO
FIND MY OWN
HAPPINESS...

...BUT THINKING
ABOUT HIM
WON'T MAKE
THAT HAPPEN.

WHAT IS
IT THAT'S
STILL...

...EATING
INTO HIM
SO MUCH?



WHAT
...



...ARE YOU
SAYING?



WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING,
HATORI-KUN?

IT CAN'T
BE TRUE.



EVERYONE IS
LAUGHING SO
HAPPILY!

THE SKY IS
SO BLUE...

IT WON'T
CHANGE
ANYTHING,
SO WHY?

...THE WATER
IS SPARKLING
SO BRIGHTLY...

IT'S NOT
TRUE, IS
IT...?



IT CAN'T
BE TRUE!!

SO
IT CAN'T
BE TRUE,
HATORI-
KUN!

THAT YOU
CAN'T BE
HAPPY...



I WON'T
BELIEVE IN
ANYTHING!!

IF IT IS,
I WON'T
BELIEVE!

...

I DON'T...

...CARE
ANYMORE!

HELP...

YOU'RE NOT
MAKING ANY
SENSE...

I DON'T
CARE!!

I DON'T
CARE...

PLEASE...

UH...

I'M
BEGGING...

...RELEASE
HIM.

WITH
UTMOST
SELFISH-
NESS...

.....
!

U
u
h
h
h

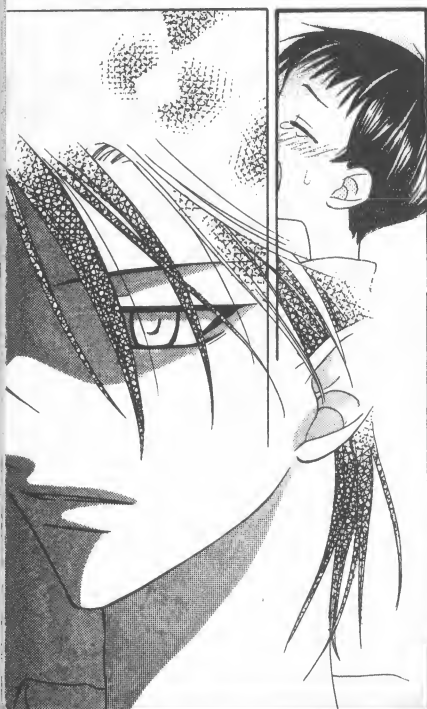
BE
HAPPY!

W
a
a
a
a
h
h
h

W
a
a
h
h

a
a
h
h
h

?!





I JUST
WANTED
A LITTLE
ESCAPE.

I'VE
BEEN...

...A LITTLE
EXHAUSTED
BY IT ALL.

...NEEDED
TO GET
OUTSIDE
OF THAT
PLACE.

LOOK, I
THINK
...

...WE
HAVE A
MISUNDER-
STANDING.

I JUST...

WITHOUT
SHAME...

...LIKE A
CHILD.

IT'S NOT
EASY TO
HAVE A
GOOD CRY
ANY-
MORE.

WHEN
YOU GET
OLDER...

...YOU
FORGET
ABOUT
THAT.

I THINK IT'S
TRUE WHAT
THEY SAY...

CRYING,
UNEXPECTEDLY,
DOES MAKES
YOU FEEL
BETTER.

I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
DUMP MY
TROUBLES
ON YOU.





YOU CRIED
IN PLACE
OF ME.

I
SUPPOSE
THIS
MAKES
ME
LOOK...

...PRETTY
IMMATURE,
HUH?

I don't usually
cry like this,
either.

NO, NOT
AT ALL.



...THANK
YOU.

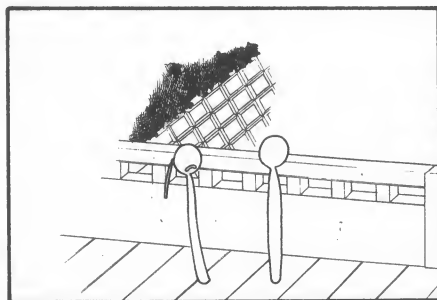


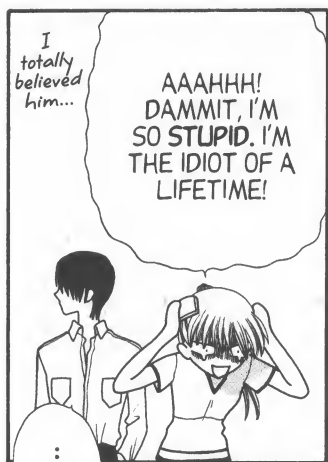
...I REALLY
DON'T CARE,
OKAY?!

BUT
AFTER THIS,
I REALLY...

I'M
HONORED
TO BE OF
SERVICE.

I...





I totally believed him...

AAAAHHH!
DAMMIT, I'M
SO STUPID. I'M
THE IDIOT OF A
LIFETIME!



DO YOU
HAVE SOME
TIME?

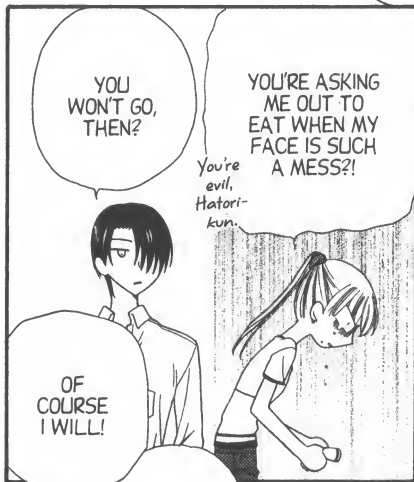


GIVE MY
TEARS
BACK,
RIGHT
NOW-WITH
INTEREST!!

Give them back !!

YOU'RE BEING
UNREASONABLE
AGAIN...

Why is this my
fault?



YOU
WON'T GO,
THEN?

YOU'RE ASKING
ME OUT TO
EAT WHEN MY
FACE IS SUCH
A MESS?!

You're
evil,
Hatori-
kun.

OF
COURSE
I WILL!



OF
COURSE...



IF YOU DO,
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO GO
OUT TO EAT
OR SOME-
THING?

AS AN
APOLOGY AND
A THANK YOU.



AFTER
ALL...

...IT'S
SUCH A
NICE DAY.



I WILL!

ALL
RIGHT!

YOU WOULD
DRINK IN FRONT
OF SOMEONE
WHO'S GOING
TO DRIVE?

You're evil.

I'LL HAVE
BEER.
DRAFT
BEER.



Ah
ha
ha!
Tee
hee
hee!

SO MUCH
THAT I HELPED
YOU WITH
YOUR LOVE!

*The end justifies
the means.*

YOU GOT
WHAT YOU
WANTED,
RIGHT?

*At the
summer
home.*

WELL, NO NEED
TO THANK ME.
I WAS WORKING
OUT OF MY OWN
SELF-INTEREST,
YOU COULD SAY.



Kya
ha ha!

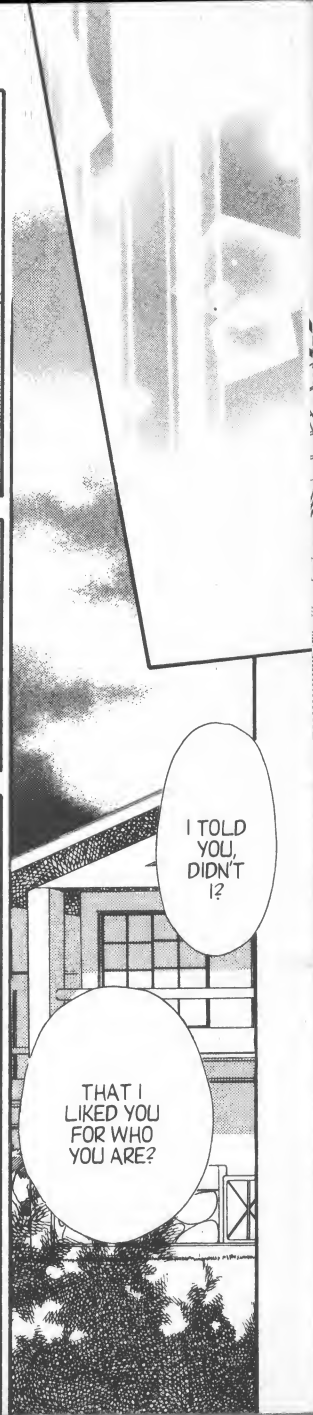
...AH, I SEE.
YOU HAVE
NO INTEREST
WHATSOEVER?



AT ANY RATE,
FROM NOW
ON, YOU'RE ON
YOUR OWN,
MAYU-CHAN.

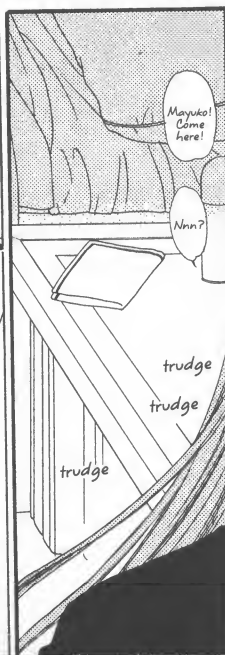
I DON'T KNOW
HOW MANY YEARS
IT'LL TAKE...IT IS
HAA-SAN WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT
HERE.

BUT SINCE
YOU'VE PERSISTED
IN CARING ABOUT
HIM FOR THIS LONG,
YOU SHOULD
BE OKAY.



I TOLD
YOU,
DIDN'T
I?

THAT I
LIKED YOU
FOR WHO
YOU ARE?





BUT BEFORE
I WOULD CLIP
MY HAIR SHORT...

FIVE OR TEN
YEARS WAS AN
EXAGGERATION...



...AND HE
WOULD START
CALLING ME
"MAYU," AGAIN...



A LITTLE
MORE...

...TIME
WOULD
PASS.

...AND WE
WOULD
GO OUT
TOGETHER
ON DAYS
WHEN THE
WEATHER
WAS NICE...

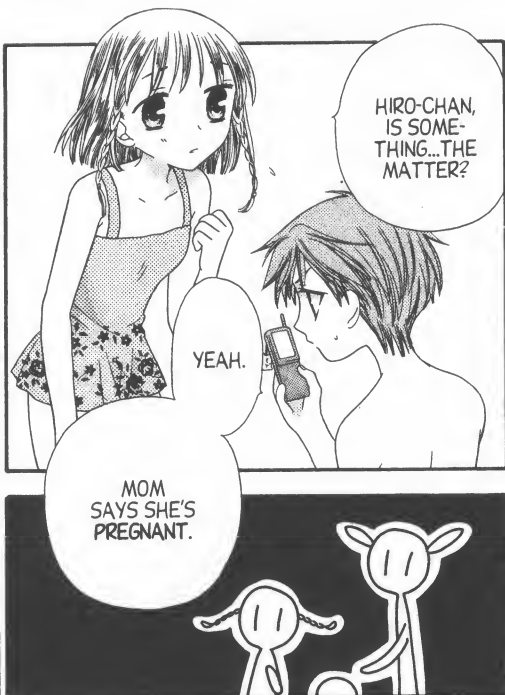


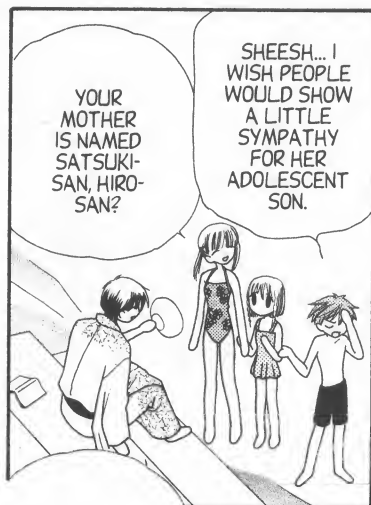
Chapter 58



BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 5

When I was little... I thought that if you swallowed the seeds, a watermelon *would* grow. I also worried that if I swallowed gum it would grow, too. Thinking about it now, I really wonder why...





YOUR
MOTHER
IS NAMED
SATSUKI-
SAN, HIRO-
SAN?

SHEESH... I
WISH PEOPLE
WOULD SHOW
A LITTLE
SYMPATHY
FOR HER
ADOLESCENT
SON.

*"The symbol
on the fan
means 'Dog'."*

SATSUKI-
SAN... SO
YOUNG...

IT'S GOOD
NEWS. YOU
SHOULD BE
HAPPY FOR
HER.

So shameless...



THAT'S MY **MOM**
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT! COULD
YOU CUT THAT
OUT?! YOU'RE
FREAKING ME OUT!



...ADMIRING
SWIMSUITS?

MORE
LIKE...

Ah...

YOU'RE SUN-
BATHING,
RIGHT?

YOU'VE BEEN
SITTING THERE
FOR SO LONG...
AREN'T YOU
GOING TO
SWIM...?

SHIGURE
OJI-CHAN*...

NNN? OJI-
CHAN ISN'T
VERY FOND OF
SWIMMING.

**oji = the pronoun for a
middle-aged man.*

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

IT WAS
A JOKE!

EH...?

EH?

EH?!

Even
I think
middle-
schoolers
are, too...

SHE'S BOUNCING
OFF THE WALLS
AND WANTS ME
TO COME HOME
RIGHT AWAY AND
CELEBRATE.

YEAH,
WELL...

TEE
HEE
HEE!

FORGET ABOUT
HER TRIPPING—
IF THERE'S
A FLIGHT OF
STAIRS IN
FRONT OF HER,
SHE'LL FIND A
WAY TO FALL
DOWN THEM.

AAHH, BUT I'M
WORRIED ABOUT
THE FUTURE.
SHE'S ALWAYS
SUCH A KLUTZ.

THAT'S THE
LAST KIND OF
ADULT I WANT
TO GROW INTO!

Uh, um...

BUT I
REALLY AM
HAPPY FOR
YOU, HIRO-
CHAN...

IS AUNTIE
SATSUMI
HAPPY...?

splaaash

BUT IT
REALLY IS
WONDERFUL
NEWS,
ISN'T IT...?!

Or
maybe
over-
protective
...

I GET THE
FEELING YOU'LL
BE A CARING
OLDER BROTHER,
HIRO-CHAN...

Oh
no...

SHE MIGHT
FALL... SHE
REALLY
MIGHT FALL!

SHE'S THE TYPE
OF PERSON WHO
REALLY WOULD
DO SOMETHING SO
NOT FUNNY!

SINCE IT'S SUCH A
RARE OCCURRENCE,
WHY DON'T WE USE
THE OPPORTUNITY
TO GO ON A DATE?

THAT'S
RIGHT. BY
THE WAY,
TOHRU-KUN,
WHERE IS
EVERYONE?

THE BABY
WILL BE
BORN AROUND
SPRING OF
NEXT YEAR,
WON'T IT?!

THEY
WENT OUT
SHOPPING.

HMM? THEN
IT REALLY
IS JUST THE
TWO OF US.

EH?!



IT'S NO GOOD, SENSEI. YOU'RE AN ADULT--YOU MUST EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL.

AN OLD MAN LIKE ME DOESN'T GET THAT MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO ASK...

OH, COME NOW. IT'S NOT LIKE I MEANT ANYTHING BY IT. I'M JUST ASKING FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE.

WANT SOME ICE CREAM?



IT NEVER DOES. AYA-NII AS AN OLDER BROTHER DOESN'T FIT, EITHER.

There's always someone better...

YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO REMIND ME.



HE'LL BE AN OLDER BROTHER? THAT DOESN'T QUITE FIT.

EEEEH ?!

HIRO'S MAMA IS HAVING A BABY?!



...IT WON'T
MAKE ITS
MAMA SAD!

BUT SINCE
IT DEFINITELY
WON'T BE
POSSESSED BY
A VENGEFUL
SPIRIT...



I WONDER IF
IT WILL BE
A BOY OR A
GIRL?!

EITHER ONE
WOULD BE
GREAT!

BUT IF IT'S
A GIRL, IT
WOULD BE
SAD THAT HE
CAN'T HUG
HER TIGHT.



PEOPLE
GIVING BIRTH
BECAUSE
THEY WANT
CHILDREN.

IT'S
NICE...



AS LONG AS
WE'RE ALL
ALIVE, THERE
WON'T BE
ANOTHER.



HE MEANS
THAT ALL THE
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC
HAVE BEEN
BORN.

The Middle School Girl Who Wanted To Start a Gang

...One of them.



What is it, moron?

They're such minor characters that they don't have names, but they were fun girls to draw. Currently, they are attending school and keeping out of trouble. They're strictly following the teachings of their "Nee-san." I want to have them show up again, but there's no room for it, so I alone feel like saying, "Tch!" I guess I just like to draw high-spirited girls.

...THAT I REALIZE...

...HOW MUCH PAIN THESE PEOPLE LIVE WITH...

...HAVING BEEN BORN POSSESSED BY VENGEFUL SPIRITS.

IT'S AT TIMES LIKE THIS...

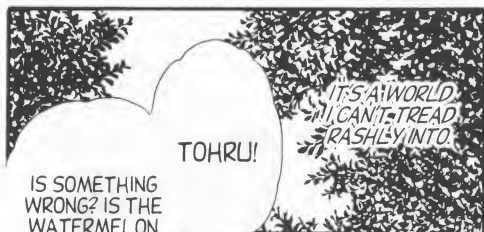
Ah!

BUT HIRO'S MAMA WAS FINE WHEN HIRO WAS BORN, RIGHT?!

YEAH... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.

WHEN HIRO TURNED OUT TO BE THE RAM, SHE BURST OUT, "I LOVE SHEEP!" QUITE A MOTHER...

Isn't she? She's great, isn't she?!



TOHRU!

IS SOMETHING
WRONG? IS THE
WATERMELON
HEAVY?

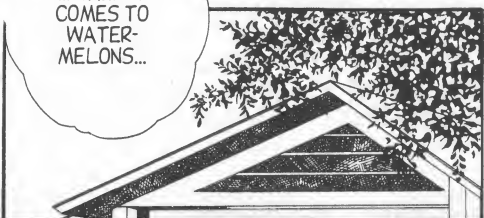


I'M ALL
RIGHT. BUT
YOU DID BUY
A LOT OF
THEM.



THAT'S
BECAUSE
...

...WHEN IT
COMES TO
WATER-
MELONS...

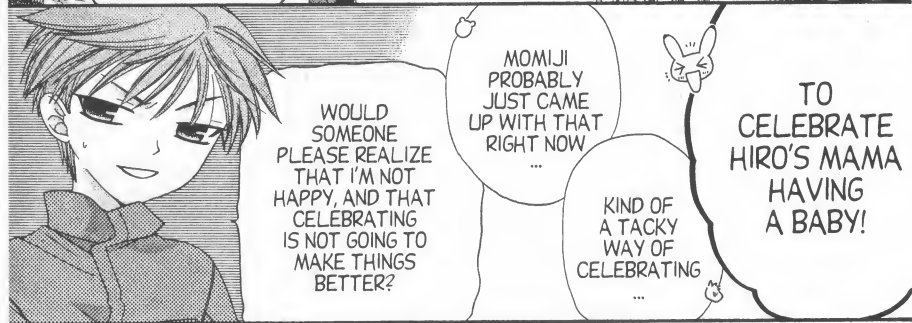


I WONDER
WHAT...

...YUKI-KUN'S
PARENTS
ARE LIKE?

AND
KYO-
KUN'S...

AND
EVERY-
ONE'S...





GO FOR IT, HIRO.
IT'LL BE A GOOD
STORY FOR WHEN
YOU'RE A BIG
BROTHER.

Kyaah!

That was
nice. Like
a hot knife
through
water-
melon.

DON'T SMASH
IT WITH YOUR
BARE HANDS
AND THEN
EAT IT!

I HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT...

Don't you
mean butter?

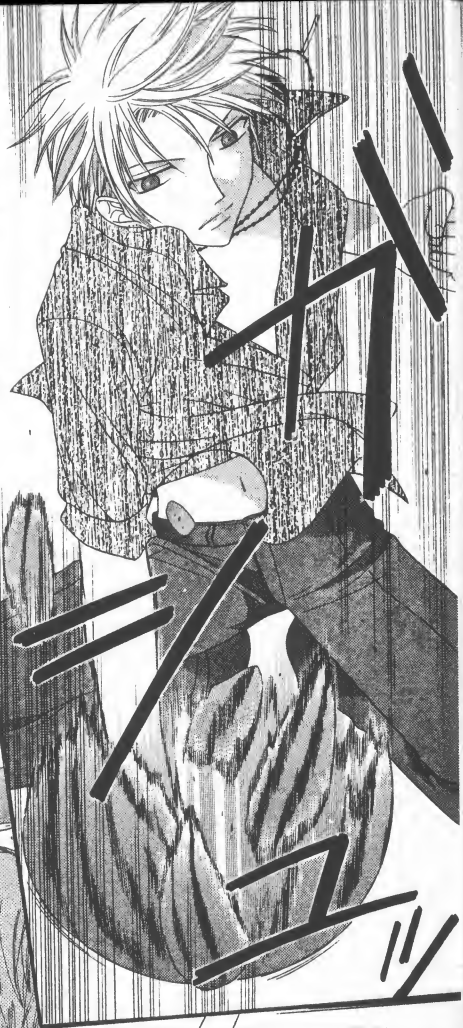
OF COURSE,
THAT TIME I
HAD A STICK AND
A BLINDFOLD,
BUT THERE ARE
DIFFERENT
KINDS OF RULES,
AREN'T THERE?

I'VE DONE
IT ONCE
BEFORE.

?!?

I WILL DO
MY BEST TO
SMASH ONE IN
CELEBRATION!

Uh,
um
!!





M-MO--

MOUNTED
POLICE...

...MOUNTED
POLICE
OFFICER?

...OFFICER
...

"WHenever you
say anything,
it's always
'mom, mom'"

NO, YOU
WERE DOING
IT RIGHT
BEFORE...

IT WAS
REALLY FUN
BEFORE, TOO.

ESPECIALLY
WHEN M--

gasp!!!

...I'VE ALREADY
SPOKEN ABOUT MY
MOTHER SO MUCH
THAT I'VE BEEN
INSENSITIVE!!

Or...
MA'YBE

WHY... WHY AM I
REALIZING SUCH
AN IMPORTANT
THING NOW...?

IT'S TOO
LATE!!

THAT'S RIGHT!
WITHOUT KNOWING
ANYTHING ABOUT
EVERYONE ELSE'S
PARENTS, I...

...I MIGHT
HAVE HURT
THEM VERY
MUCH!!

A
haha



...

SHE REALLY IS OVERLY CAUTIOUS ABOUT WHAT SHE'S SAYING...



y--

Yes! He was!

very much so!

WAS THE MOUNTED POLICE OFFICER FUN?!

UM, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?



A-ANY-WAY!!



TAKE THAT!

STU--!

IN CELEBRATION OF HIRO-SAN'S BABY--

I TOLD YOU IT'S NOT MY BABY!!

EH?!

Seriously?!

—TOHRU HONDA WILL HUMBLLY SMASH THE WATERMELON!!

GONGG



ARE YOU
CRYING BECAUSE
YOU COULDN'T
BREAK IT, OR
BECAUSE YOUR
HAND HURTS?

You really are
a moron...

ONG ONG ONG

drip
drip

drip
drip

...CO-

CONGRATULA...
TIONS...

shudder
shudder

drip
drip



I'M
BEGGING
YOU,
KISA!
STOP!!

G
Y
A
H

I-
I'LL...

...DO MY
BEST TO
CELEBRATE...
TOO...



YOU'RE
TAKING AWAY
THE WHOLE
POINT OF THE
GAME!!

OH
yeah!

HIRO,
YOU'RE
KIND OF
LIKE KYO.

And why are
you smiling like
you just had a
great idea?!!

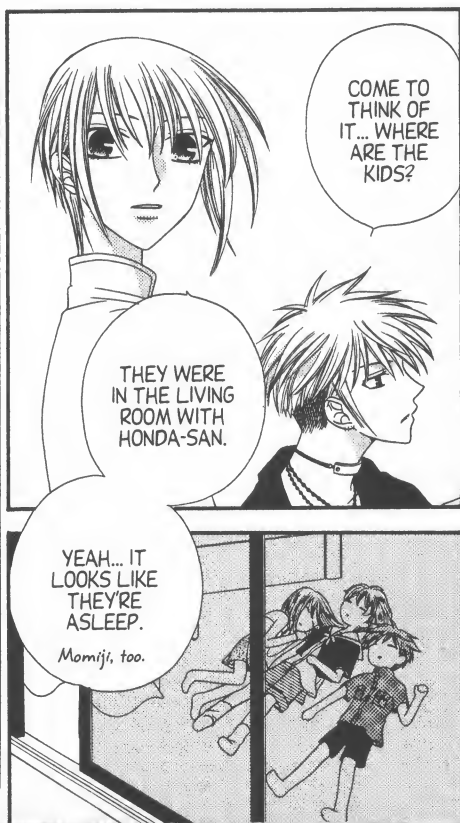
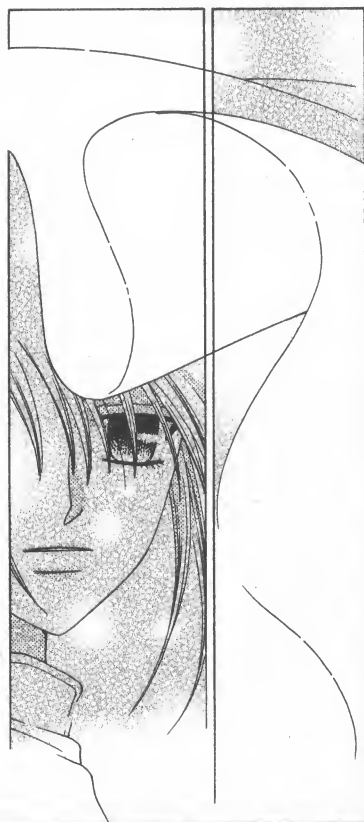
IF YOU THROW
IT, YOU CAN
BREAK IT
SAFELY AND
EASILY!

Smart
aleck
...

What
?!

Aah
?!

Yum...







IN THE
DARK
ROOM...

IN A PITCH
DARK ROOM, I
WOULD LISTEN
TO PITCH DARK
WORDS.

MY MOTHER
AND FATHER
WOULDN'T
COME FOR ME.

NEITHER
WOULD NII-
SAN.

EVERY
DAY...

...AKITO
WOULD COME
TO DENY
EVERYTHING.

...WHAT I
IMAGINED...



...WHAT...

HM?

KYO...

...I WANTED...





AHH... IT
BOTHERS
ME IF...

...YOU DON'T
SPEAK YOUR
MIND.

*What bothers
me, bothers
me.*

BACK THEN,
YOU WERE
GOING TO SAY
SOMETHING,
WEREN'T YOU?



YOU...

HIRO
REALLY DID
SAY SOMETHING,
DIDN'T HE?

EH?



So...

...HURT
YOU.

BUT I
THOUGHT...
I MIGHT...

UM...

UH...



KY--

....

KYO-KUN,
MAY I ASK...
ABOUT YOUR
PARENTS?



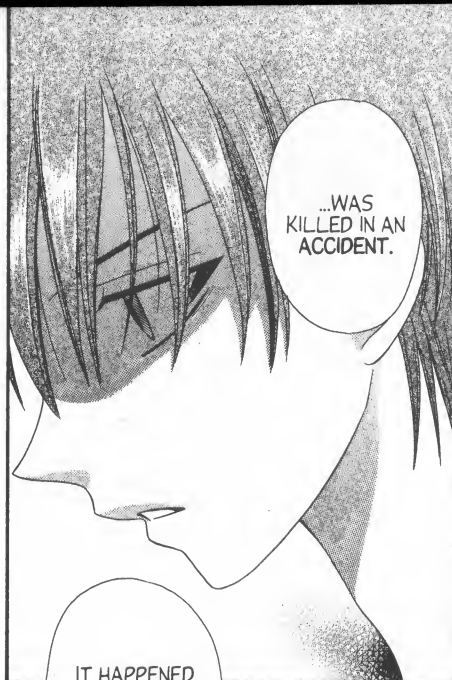
AH...

WHAT?
ME? GET
HURT?

TELL ME
WHAT YOU
MEAN.

OUT
WITH IT!

Y-YES!



...WAS
KILLED IN AN
ACCIDENT.

IT HAPPENED
A LONG TIME
AGO...WHEN
I WAS FOUR
OR FIVE.



HUH? OH.
I THOUGHT
WE ALREADY
TALKED
ABOUT IT.

MY REAL
FATHER AND
I ARE CUT OFF
FROM EACH
OTHER. I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM IN
YEARS.

MY
MOTHER
WAS
KILLED
BY--



KILLED...



OH, I
GET IT.

Yeah, yeah.

I THINK
I UNDER-
STAND...IT'S
STUPID.

EH...?

WHAT
ARE YOU
WORRYING
FOR NOW?



AH...

AHHH
....



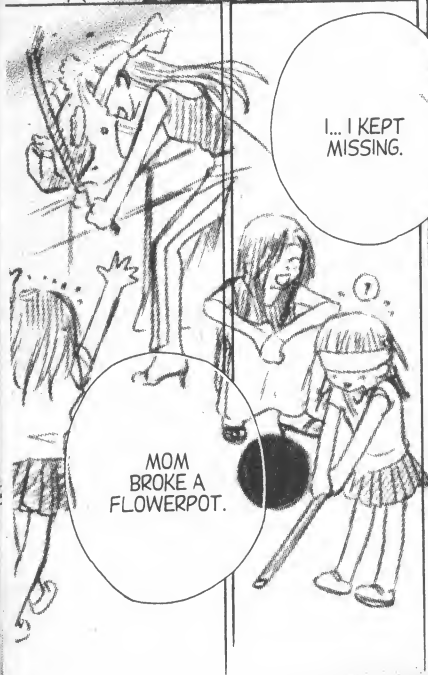
YOUR MOTHER
AND OUR
PARENTS HAVE
NOTHING TO
DO WITH EACH
OTHER.

I mean...

YOU
WORRYING
ABOUT THAT
STUFF MAKES
ME MORE
PISSED OFF.

SO YOU
SMASHED
WATERMELONS
WITH YOUR
MOM, HUH?

EH?!
AH!!



I... I KEPT
MISSING.

MOM
BROKE A
FLOWERPOT.



IN FRONT
OF OUR
APARTMENT...
JUST THE
TWO OF US.

U...M...
WELL...

YES, WHEN
I WAS...VERY
SMALL.



...MOM...
DESTROYED
"DAD"...

BUT IT
BELONGED TO
THE MANAGER
OF OUR
APARTMENT.

OF COURSE, SHE
MADE SURE TO
PAY FOR THE
FLOWERPOT!

HE TOLD US
TO STOP, SO
WE MOVED THE
GAME INSIDE, BUT
THIS TIME...

"By 'Dad,' Tohru is referring to a
shrine to a deceased love one.

Ah!!

.....

IN THE
END, WE
BROKE THE
WATER-
MELON
TOGETHER...

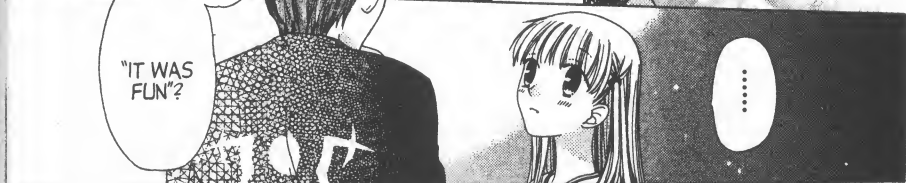
...AND
ATE IT.

IT
WAS...



.....

"IT WAS
FUN"?

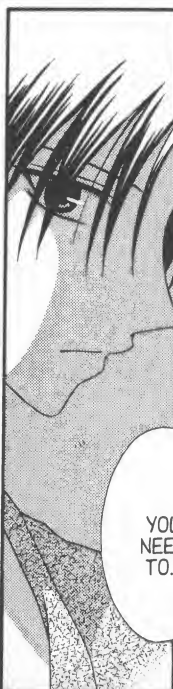
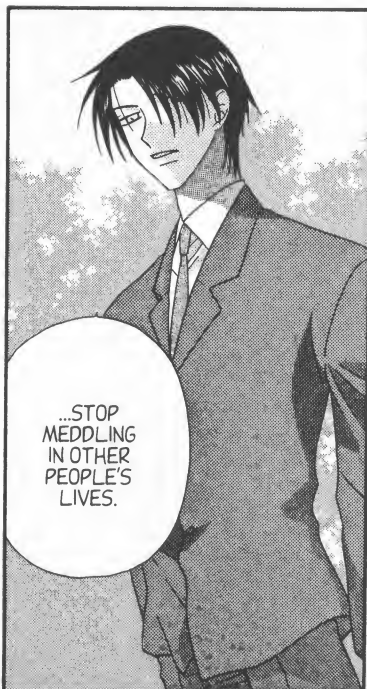


.....

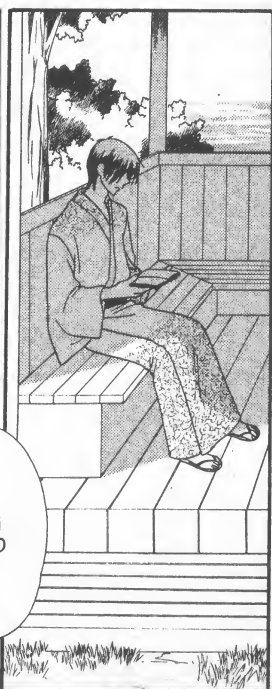


YES!

IT WAS
FUN!



YOU
NEED
TO...





AND WHAT
YOU PULLED
WITH SHIRAKI...
IF YOU DON'T
REIN IN YOUR
MISCHIEF...

...I'LL
SLIT YOU
OPEN.

Your belly.

EHH? WHAT-
EVER ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT? I
HAVE NO IDEA,
WHATSOEVER!



...DID
YOU-
KNOW-
WHO
CAME?



WOW!
HAA-SAN!

I DIDN'T
THINK YOU'D
COME!

SHUT IT.
PUTTING
UNNECESSARY
IDEAS INTO
AKITO'S HEAD...



I'M NOT
THE ONLY
ONE HE
BROUGHT.

....

THAT'S
WHY I'M
HERE.

OH, OF
COURSE
HE WOULD
BRING HIS
PET HAA-
SAN.



SO IF I
DON'T STIR
THINGS UP...

...I CAN'T
GET MY
DESIRED
RESULTS.

"IT'S A
TEST."

STOP TRYING
TO STIR
THINGS UP.

IF YOU
PUSH TO
HARD,
YOU'LL
BREAK
THINGS.

BREAK?

FOR US,
THERE'S
NOTHING
LEFT TO
BREAK, IS
THERE?

...HA. WELL,
WELL.


I DIDN'T EXPECT
HIM BRING
KURENO-KUN
WITH HIM.

He got
me.
he got
me.

YOU...

THINK A
LITTLE MORE
ABOUT YUKI
AND KYO... AND
HONDA-KUN.






SUCH A
LONELY BOY.

HELLO
THERE,
YUKI.

IN ORDER
TO FIGHT
ON...

ARE YOU
ALONE... AS
USUAL?

Chapter 59



...I WANT
TO BELIEVE
THAT MY
HOPES
AREN'T FOR
NOTHING.

...THAT
THERE
REALLY
IS MORE
TO LIFE
THAN
DARK-
NESS.

I WANT TO
BELIEVE...



JUST LIKE
EVEN IF I'M
PELTED
WITH RAIN...

...I KNOW
THE SUN
WILL
COME UP
AGAIN.



NO
MATTER
HOW
MUCH...

...I'M
KNOCKED
DOWN BY
PAIN...



ALWAYS...

...KINDNESS
HAS
CONTINUED
TO FALL
DOWN ON ME.
EVER SINCE
THAT DAY.

YUP.
HE JUST
ARRIVED.

Mmm...

IS AKITO
STAYING
HERE?

AKITO-
SAN...

...IS
HERE...?

*Hanare: a detached room, like a guest house.

Ha ha!

...SHOULD
WE CHANGE
CLOTHES?

YOU'RE
FINE
LIKE
THAT.

...

OF COURSE
NOT. HE'S
STAYING
IN THE
HANARE*.

STILL, WE
HAVE TO GO
SAY HELLO.

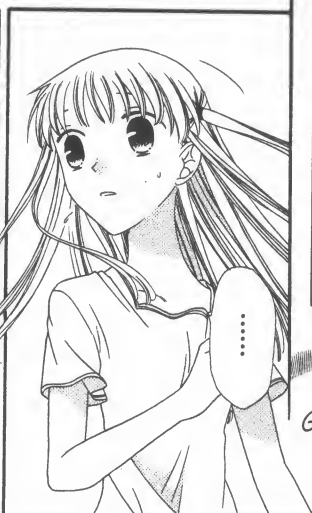


YUKI-KUN...

By the way...

WHERE'S YUKI-KUN?

WHAT ABOUT YUKI-KUN?

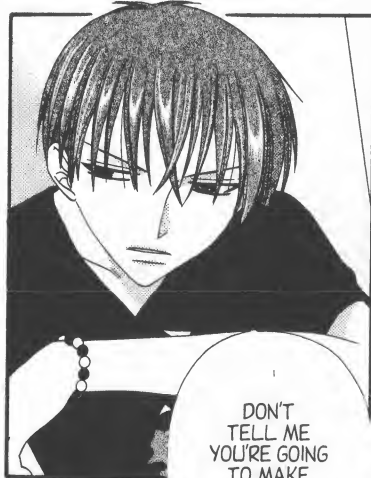


Gasp!

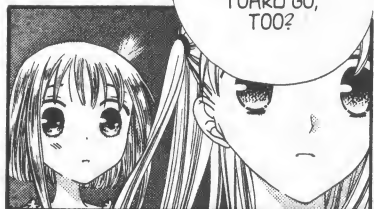


AKITO-SAN...

I ONLY MET HIM ONCE, IN APRIL.



DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE TOHRU GO, TOO?



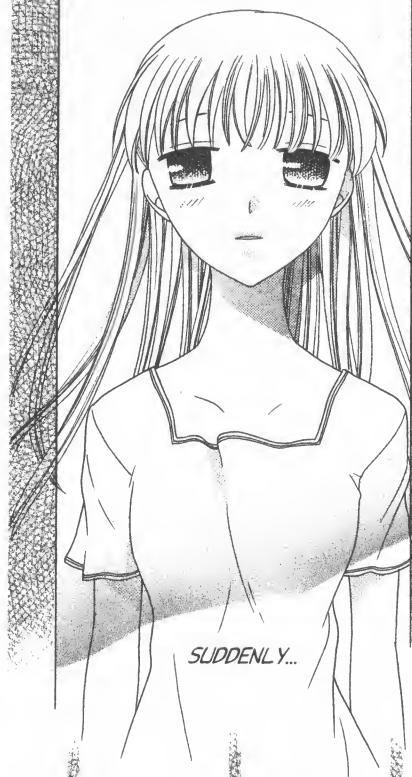
HEY.



OH MY... I SEE. WELL, YUKI-KUN CAN GO LATER.

TAKING A WALK.





SUDDENLY...

...IT FELT
AS IF THE
"FIRE HAD"
GONE OUT.





AS IF
EVERYONE'S
MOOD

HAD
GROWN
HEAVY

HE ENJOYS
SNEERING AT
PEOPLE.

HE'S
ALWAYS
BEEN LIKE
THAT.

AKITO
HAS.

I BET HE CAME
HERE JUST TO
THROW COLD
WATER ON
EVERYTHING.

...IN
EVERYONE'S
HEARTS.

AKITO-SAN
REALLY
DOES...

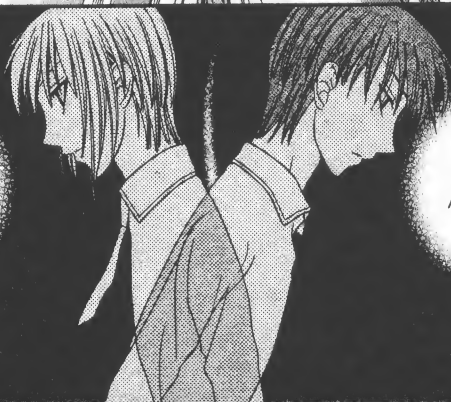
...WEIGH
HEAVILY...



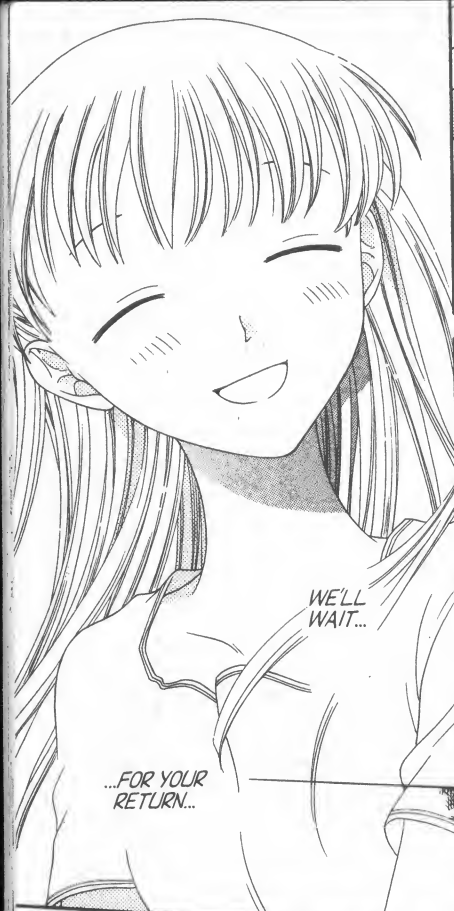
...

...AND TO
YUKI-KLIN...

ESPECIALLY
FOR KYO-KLIN...







WE'LL
WAIT...

...FOR YOUR
RETURN...



THEY'RE
SWEET, IS
THAT ALL
RIGHT?

NO. I'VE
NEVER HAD
THEM, SO
I WANT TO
TRY THEM.



Wha--

WHAT?
THEY'RE
SWEET?!

Even though
they're
bread?!

Eh?

PANCAKES ARE
BASICALLY
HOTCAKES, SO...

?

Actually, they're
more like cake.

...EVERYONE.



...DID HE
COME HERE
ALL OF A
SUDDEN...? AKITO-SAN.

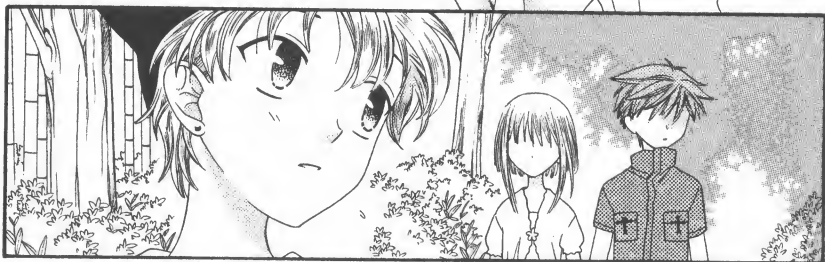
BUT
WHY...



YES...

KISA...

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?



*Makoto-kun of the
Takei-san family*



I think he's probably a capable man... (If he wasn't, how would he have become ASB president?). He's a young master from extremely good lineage. How's that for vague? He likes pretty things, so his bedroom etc. are arranged very aesthetically, but with such high tension. I wonder if he eats breakfast? Takei will soon be graduating from high school, too.



AAAHH, BUT I DO WANT TO HURRY UP AND GET THIS OVER WITH SO WE CAN GO BACK!



THAT REALLY IS TOO EARLY.



Nya ha ha!

YEAH...



.....



WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF.

AKITO DOESN'T LIKE YOU.

I'M FINE!
I'M USED TO IT!



BUT I DO...

...WANT TO GO BACK SOON.



*Jūnishi = The members of the Zodiac





HOW LONG
ARE YOU TWO
GOING TO BE
WHISPERING?

I THOUGHT I
TOLD YOU THAT
WHEN YOU
ARRIVE, YOU
ARE TO COME
STRAIGHT TO
ME! ALWAYS!

YOU'RE LATE.
IDIOTS SHOULD
DO WHAT
IDIOTS CAN TO
BE QUICKER.

Ah! NERVOUS?
NERVOUS...

DID REN-
SAN MAKE
A PASS
AT HIM OR
SOME-
THING?

DON'T
SAY THAT
WHICH IS
FORBIDDEN.

SHIGURE!

OH,
HELLO,
AKITO-
SAN.

I BROUGHT
EVERYONE
TO BID YOU
WELCOME.



KURENO!
LEAVE.

NEVER
MIND.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
SEE ANYONE.



YOU'RE
COMPLETELY
RIGHT.

I APOLOGIZE.



MORE
IMPORTANTLY
...

WHY? IT'S NOT
NECESSARY.

...I MET
WITH YUKI
EARLIER.

WHY
DON'T YOU
LET KURENO
SEE EVERYONE
ONCE IN A
WHILE?



AKITO...



...SO I LET
HIM TALK
TO ME.



HE WAS OUT
WALKING ALL
BY HIMSELF...

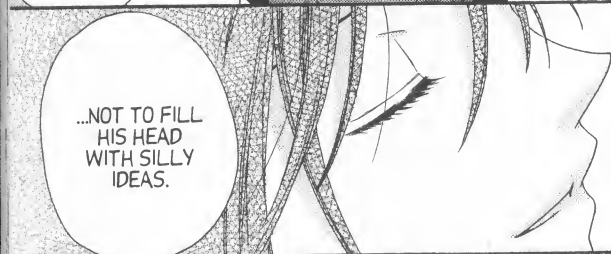


OF COURSE.
I'M ALWAYS
THINKING
OF YUKI.

I GENTLY
ADMON-
ISHED HIM...



WELL,
WELL...
THAT WAS
VERY KIND
OF YOU.



...NOT TO FILL
HIS HEAD
WITH SILLY
IDEAS.

...AND
TOLD HIM...



HE'S PROBABLY
OFF CRYING
SOMEWHERE
ABOUT NOW.

THAT'S
SO LIKE
YUKI.

HE LOOKED
LIKE HE HAD
RECEIVED A
TREMENDOUS
SHOCK.



HE SHOULD
JUST COME
BACK TO ME.



HE SHOULD
BE SO LUCKY
THAT I GIVE
HIM SO MUCH
ATTENTION.



A BORING
GUY LIKE
HIM!!

snigger



AKITO...



HEH
...

HEH
HEH!

AH HA HA! HE
REALLY IS...

...AN
IDIOT!!



YES...

YOU'RE
RIGHT.
I'LL GO.

THAT IS
INDEED THE
CASE.

BUT WHY
DON'T WE GO
SEE EVERY-
ONE NOW?





I'M ONLY
STATING
FACTS.

YOU'RE
JUST TOO
KIND, HAA-
SAN.

ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
MERITS? OR
FAULTS?

AND I'M JUST
CONNIVING
AND NOT NICE
AT ALL.
RIGHT?



...ISN'T THE
CLOSED UP
LITTLE BOY
THAT HE USED
TO BE.

AND YUKI...



...IS WHO?

NOW
THEN...

...THE FOOL
WHO IS MAKING
THE BIGGEST
MISUNDER-
STANDING...



WELCOME.

THANK YOU
FOR COMING.
I'M SO HAPPY.



I...

...LOVE
YOU
ALL.

THE
SUN'S
SETTING



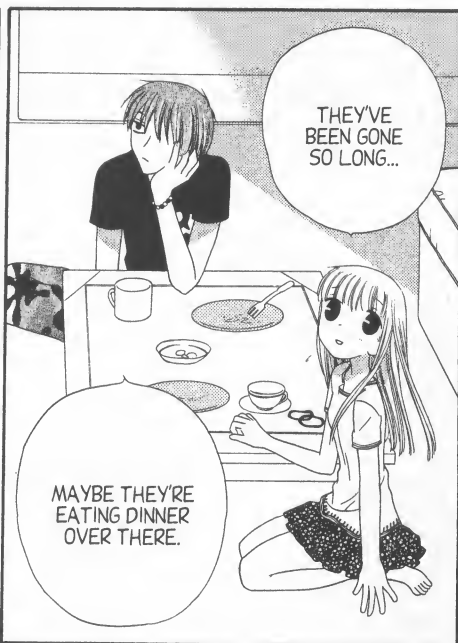
SHOULD WE
HEAT UP THE
LEFTOVERS
AND EAT
THEM?

We-

WE
CAN'T!

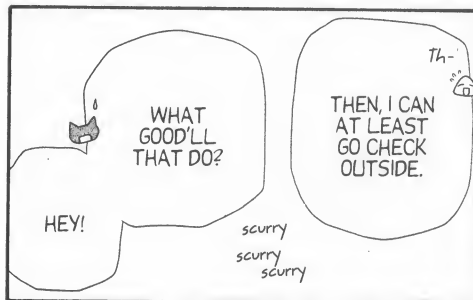


OH! I KNOW!
WHY DON'T
WE CALL
THEM?!



THEY'VE
BEEN GONE
SO LONG...

MAYBE THEY'RE
EATING DINNER
OVER THERE.



WHAT
GOOD'LL
THAT DO?

HEY!

scurry
scurry
scurry

THEN, I CAN
AT LEAST
GO CHECK
OUTSIDE.

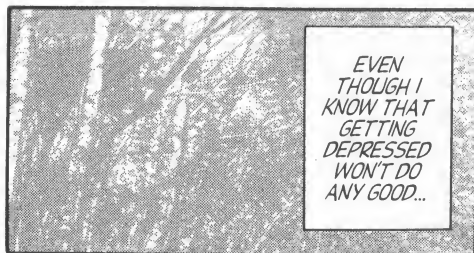
Th-



DO YOU KNOW
THE PHONE
NUMBER?

Oh.

I don't.



EVEN
THOUGH I
KNOW THAT
GETTING
DEPRESSED
WON'T DO
ANY GOOD...



...I REALLY
AM GETTING
NERVOUS.

...TO THINK
LIKE THIS.

IT MUST BE
VERY RUDE
TO AKITO-
SAN...



WHAT AM
I SUPPOSED
TO DO IN A
SITUATION
LIKE THIS?!

Aaah!!

...HONDA-
SAN?



BUT WHEN
I MET AKITO-
SAN BEFORE...

...YUKI-KUN
REALLY
WAS VERY
FRIGHTENED.

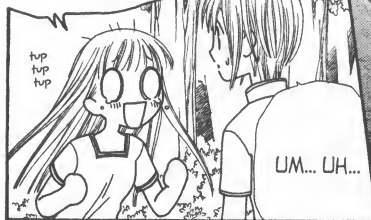
AND YUKI-KUN
HASN'T COME
BACK FROM
HIS WALK...



I WONDER IF
HE ALREADY
WENT TO
SEE HIM.



YUKI-KUN-!
THANK
GOODNESS!
I WAS ABLE
TO SEE YOU!



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
THERE?



WHAT'S
WRONG?



I WAS
WALKING
AROUND
THINKING ABOUT
THINGS, AND
LOST TRACK
OF TIME.

SHALL
WE GO
HOME?

ME? I WAS
TAKING A
WALK.



EH?!
AH...UM,
THAT IS...

OH! ARE
YOU LOST?

YUKI-KUN,
WHY...ARE
YOU OUT
HERE?

Heh
heh!



.....!

YUKI-KU--

tug
YUKI-KUN,
A SHOOTING
STAR...

IT'S DARK, SO
BE CAREFUL
WHERE YOU
STEP.

HAS HE...

...NOT SEEN
AKITO-SAN?

AH...

I WONDER
IF I SHOULD
TELL HIM
NOW...

YES...

...THAT
AKITO-
SAN IS
HERE.





SEE?
THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE!

AH!

LOOK, UP
THERE!
I'M SURE
OF IT!

IT'S A
SHOOTING
STAR!

DID YOU
SEE IT?!

YEAH.



WASN'T IT
PRETTY?!



IT'S SO
SIMPLE.



*I HAVE
TO OPEN
THAT
TIGHTLY
CLOSED
'LID'*

WHAT
I HAVE
TO DO...

WHAT I
SHOULD
DO...



...I MIGHT HAVE
KNOWN ALL
ALONG...

...IN THE
CORNER
OF MY
MIND...

ACTUALLY
...



...WHAT
WOULD
HAPPEN IF
I OPENED
THE LID.



THANKS
TO AKITO.



...OPEN
THE LID?



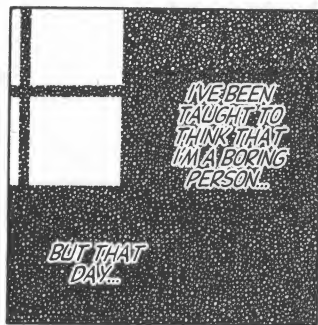
MAYBE IT'S
DIFFICULT
BECAUSE IT'S
SO SIMPLE.

DID
YOU...



I WAS
VERY
HAPPY...

...TO BE
ABLE TO
SAVE YOU
WHEN
YOU WERE
LOST.



I'VE BEEN
TAUGHT TO
THINK THAT
I'M A BORING
PERSON...

BUT THAT
DAY...



...AT
THAT
TIME...

...FOR
JUST THAT
MOMENT...



...FOR NOT
FORGETTING...

...THE MEMORY
OF A DAY LONG,
LONG AGO.



THANK
YOU FOR
ALWAYS...

...LISTENING
TO ME.



THANK
YOU FOR
ALWAYS
ACCEPTING...



...MY
WEAKNESS.

THANK
YOU...



YOU DON'T
KNOW, DO
YOU?

...YOUR
KINDNESS...

...YOUR
WARMTH,
YOUR
HAPPINESS
...



IT WAS
ALWAYS
ME WHO
WAS BEING
SAVED.



...SPARING
NOTHING.



...YOU
ALWAYS
SHARED...



...YOU MADE ME
A NECESSITY.

YOU CAN'T
UNDER-
STAND...

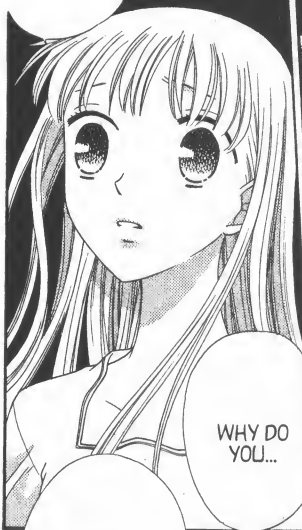
...HOW
INCREDIBLY
HAPPY THAT
MADE ME.





BUT...

BUT
WHY...



WHY DO
YOU...



...SEEM SO
SAD?

I'LL KEEP
GOING...

...FOR-
WARD.

I CAN GO ON
BELIEVING.

I'M SURE
OF IT.

YOU
CONTINUE
TO SHOWER
ME WITH
THEM.

THAT'S
WHY...

...I WON'T
LOSE.





... YOU ARE LIKE
THAT SKY.

BECAUSE...

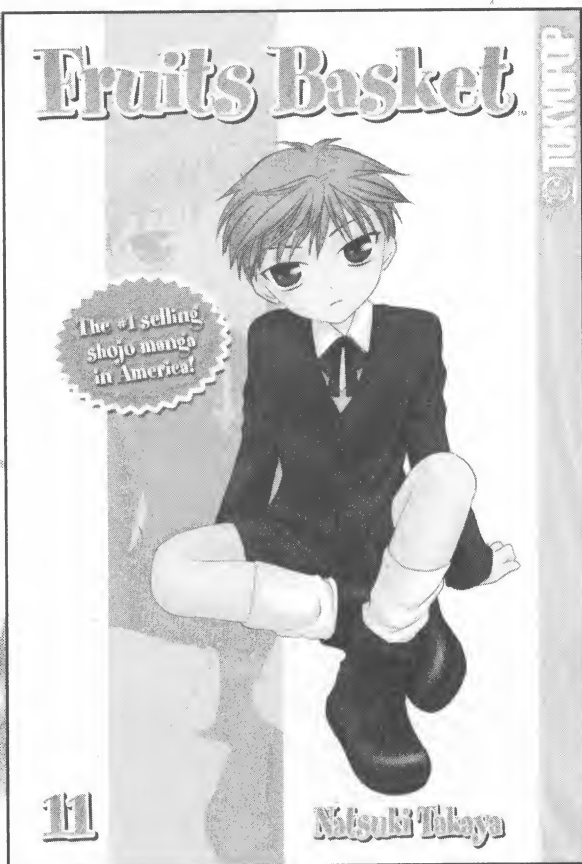
BECAUSE I
FEEL IT SO
MUCH THAT
IT BREAKS
MY HEART...

*I LOVE
YOU.*



To Be Continued in Volume 11...

Next time in...



Secrets Under Summer Skies...

While at the Sohma vacation home, Tohru is caught in a whirlwind of familial strife. Can she relax and put the “fun” in dysfunctional? None of the Sohmas are going to make it easy, including an angry horse that attacks Tohru. Could this be a new member of the Zodiac? Meanwhile, in a fierce argument with Akito, Kyo reveals his true feelings for Tohru. Will Akito tell Tohru about Kyo’s secret crush? And speaking of secrets, Akito makes a major announcement—one that will reveal his true identity and change the Sohma family forever!

Fruits Basket Volume 11
Available August 2005